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EXCAVATIONS AT SAQQARA

(1905-1906)



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SERVICE DES ANTIQUITÉS DE L'ÉGYPTÉ

EXCAVATIONS AT SAQQARA

(1905-1906)

BY

J. E. QUIBELL



LE CAIRE

IMPRIMERIE DE L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS

D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE

1907

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INTRODUCTION.

The excavations at Saqqara of which the account follows, began late in the season, on the 2nd of April 1905 : they were continued till the 15th of June, then interrupted for three months, and again pursued from 15th of September 1905 to the middle of March 1906. The number of men employed varied between 70 and 180; half of them were old acquaintances and their relatives from Keft; the rest, local men from the two neighbouring villages of Abusir and Saqqara. The local wage is still 3 P. T. $1\frac{1}{2}$, but signs are frequent that a higher rate must soon be paid. In the wheat harvest good labourers cannot be had : they are paid in kind for harvesting, and believe that they can earn the equivalent of 6 to 8 P. T. But the early summer is not a good time for work in this district : everyone suffers from the heat : even with a three hours' rest at midday, the men are exhausted. Harvesting is largely carried on at night, mainly, no doubt, to avoid loss of corn by carrying the overripe ears while they are slightly moist, but also, I think, to escape severe labour during the greatest heat of the year.

The part of the cemetery on which, by order of the Director General, work was begun, was that east of the Pyramid of Teta. The first idea was to clear the pyramid temple : this task M. Barsanti had begun : the rubbish he removed formed an embankment running eastward : before continuing it, we had to make sure that we should not cover monuments of value.

A hole was then made at the foot of this embankment or tip : tombs, apparently of the Middle Empire, were immediately found : it was necessary to go further east and exhaust the ground before it was finally covered up. Now the Teta pyramid is not very far from the edge of the plateau : at 200 metres east of it, the ground begins to sink rather rapidly; less than halfway down the slope there a point was selected, from which a systematic clearance to the westward should begin.

The ease with which the spot could again be found was one reason for selecting it. To the north and to the south very good boundaries, seemingly parallel, could be

seen, one a stone wall, known to the workmen as part of the *Sign Yusuf* (Joseph's prison) : the other a very massive wall of brick, more than 8 metres thick, as we found later, but now visible only as a broad black band on the ground, not projecting at all above the surface.

At the point selected for the commencement of work, a narrower brick wall, denuded to a small height, connected these two boundaries. It seemed at first that a trench of no excessive width (about 50 metres) could be dug from this point to the pyramid 200 metres away : the pyramid chapel would thus be approached from the east. But the unexpected depth of detritus showed in time that such a programme would take three or four years : one hole we sank to 12 metres from the surface without touching undisturbed rock, and the average depth throughout the site would be about 8 metres. This depth, with the great mass of stones found which had often to be broken before they could be moved, rendered the digging more expensive, and for the workmen more laborious than any I have seen in Egypt. The earliest dug parts yielded singularly little : the two north and south cross walls between the *Sign Yusuf* and the great wall (Gisr el-Nahas) seemed to be of late date, probably Greek. A little further west, some fragments of Bes figures made of mud and painted red were found at a high level; then a complete figure was found *in situ*, then another, and the chambers with this singular mural decoration were soon cleared.

A little to the north, in the middle of the work, a wall of fine masonry disclosed itself, clearly the east side of a mastaba : a false door soon appeared, then the north wall of the building, and along this we tried to run a track, and so clear the top of the mastaba. But a second massive wall, skew to the first, was soon met, and, when a great deal of stone had been cut through in order to make this track, a little cliff or step in the native rock blocked the way. Nevertheless a short cutting along the north face was made and used for the clearance of some of the buildings above the mastaba. Monuments of at least four periods were found : in the mass of the filling, oblong shafts, bricklined, had been sunk at some time in the Middle Kingdom. Then, probably late in the New Empire, the site was used for another series of poor wooden coffins with heads moulded in clay : still later, perhaps, in early Ptolemaic times, some of the out buildings of a temple stood there : to this time the Bes chambers seemed to belong, as also a shallow limestone pavement, stones from which were to

be seen in all quarters of the site. The great brick wall is probably also of this period. Last of all, after the decay of paganism, the Copts had employed the ground for a cemetery, and their burials, oriented at right angles to the earlier tombs, sometimes cutting into the walls of the Middle Empire shafts (pl. XXIV), found too under the Greek pavement, but only where a block had been removed, formed the latest group of monuments observed. For 1500 years this part of Saqqara has been little disturbed.

The east face of the mastaba was cleared nearly to the foundation levels so soon as the removal of the Bes figures made it possible. Little was found between the north niche and the wall. To find the southern niche and the expected chapel and serdab, it was needful to go to the south side of the wall : here a deep crater-like hole was made and the east face was found, but much denuded : the south niche was indeed disclosed, but it was at a low level, and there was no sign of a chamber : further digging might possibly give us an external chapel : we did not, this year, get deep enough to test this.

In this part, the Greek pavement first found north of the gate continues : bending slightly to the west, it points towards a break in another huge brick wall, parallel to the first and about 30 metres away. Some of this pavement had to be destroyed so as to sink down on the south end of the mastaba : here again much quarrying had been done : the fine outer casing of white stone had almost disappeared, but the inner wall of local stone was nearly intact : there is no entrance into the mastaba on this side. All four sides had now been cleared to a considerable depth, except for a short length near the south-west corner.

Before this, the area (pls. VII and VIII) between the great brick wall and the tip from earlier work which we have already mentioned, had been attacked, as well as the strip between the mastaba and the broad east end of this tip.

In the latter area, a row of tombs of the Early Middle Empire, though robbed even of most of the wood of the coffins, and with the smaller stones of their chapels quarried away, gave us the most important monuments of the season, the large stelae dating from the Xth Dynasty, or a period not much later.

Further to the west, and between the tip and the great wall, was a singular group of Middle Empire shafts with subterranean chambers : they are very close together, separated often by only half a metre of untouched rock : it was difficult to see where

their chapels, if they had any, could have stood. Further west were blocks of a massive pavement used perhaps to level the site for the temple, and at the west limit of this part of the work, a terrace wall of brick with a wall of rubble behind it, stood at right angles to the main « Gisir ».

In this cross wall, leading up to the higher terrace, are the remains of a stairway, indeed of two stairways, an early one of brick, a later and higher one of white limestone. From them two pavements, one above the other, lead eastwards, evidently to join the often mentioned Greek pavement near the gate in the wall.

Halfway through the season, it had become clear that, with the deep and slow digging before us, it would be a long while before the order to clear the pyramid temple could be executed. It was decided then to start this as another piece of work, running out the limestone chip along another embankment a little north of the old one: and at 1 metre lower level: the original one could not be continued, as the mastaba was directly in its line of extension. Some ground has thus been covered that may eventually have to be cleared again, but it was hard to see how this could be avoided.

A considerable mass of stone chips was removed, and more of the pavement of the Pyramid chapel cleared, but little that could help to forming a plan. Fragments of the lower torus of a granite stela, pieces of *khaker* ornament, beads from the dress of the Egyptian quarrymen who destroyed the temple, diorite hammer-stones which had served them for tools: these were the chief objects found. One large block, of a brown quartzite containing pebbles, was found *in situ*, at about the middle point of the east face; it was probably the base of the granite stela.

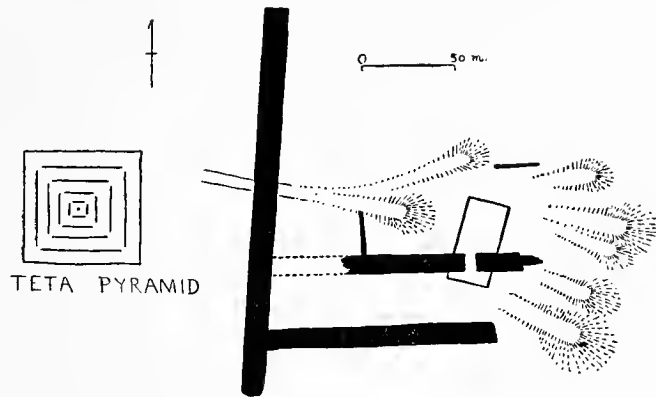
The last piece of work attempted was the clearance of a late grave, called the Bîr el-Qutala, or « shaft of the killed ». It is an oblong shaft about 30 metres east of the Pyramid, lined with masonry at the upper part, opening below, both to the east and especially to the west, into a rather extensive series of chambers branching from a long gallery. The western branch must lead up as far as the Pyramid. The grave has been opened several times, by Mariette, by the late reis Rubi, and, fourteen years ago, by a certain band of robbers: it is from them that the tomb received its name, for a fall seems to have taken place, and two of the men were killed, and the stains of their blood were shown us on the wall.

The tomb is now a singular spectacle: bodies have been dragged from their stone

coffins, rifled, and left heaped on the floor, so that one has to creep over heaps of bones and black, brittle wrappings in order to reach the end : pieces of poor, late ushabtis are frequent : bits of inscribed mummy cloth and papyrus can still be found, but the tomb has been so often rifled that it will very ill repay the expense of further examination : it was not this consideration, however, that stopped our work here, but rather the lack of men and time, and later, an extraordinary plague of fleas which, multiplying in the warm, still air, rendered the place intolerable to the stoutest workman.

The tomb was, therefore, left to a more convenient season, and the plan will not be found in this volume. The objects from the Pyramid chapel too are so few that they also are better kept until a larger area shall have been excavated.

In the succeeding pages will be found a more detailed account of the monuments mentioned above, and this is followed by a description of the plates.



Sketch plan. Walls, mastaba and rubbish tips.

EXCAVATIONS AT SAQQARA,

1905-1906.

THE MASTABA.

The mastaba was built on a narrow platform of rock; the cliff behind it is at the north west corner so close that a man can but just pass, and there was not apparently much room to spare on the east side. Both the north wall of stone (the *Sign Yusuf*) and the main brick wall are there cracked through, clearly owing to subsidence. The tomb must then have been approached by a rather steep slope from the east. There was always, it seems, access to the roof from the level above at the north west corner: here, for a length of four metres, the stones are white, while, in all the rest of the outer walls, the colour has been burnt by the sun to a brownish yellow.

A rough blocking of dry masonry between the tomb and the cliff at this point may then date from the original building of the mastaba. The mastaba is oblong in plan, about 20 metres along the short side, about 40 in the long one (pl. III). It is constructed of an outer wall of fine Tourah limestone, of rather large (to 1 m. 50 cent.) flat blocks, the courses being about 0 m. 40 cent. high, and of an inner one of local yellow stone, the whole space between the four inner walls being filled in with limestone chip.

The outer wall is built with a batter of 1 in 5: the surface is well finished, except that a few round bosses of about 0 m. 20 cent. diameter and 0 m. 15 cent. height are left at points apparently chosen at haphazard: the stones of the west wall, which was not intended to be seen, were left, however, in the rough. There are traces of red paint on some of the outer stones.

The inner wall is not smoothed, but still has a batter, the courses being stepped back to 0 m. 05 cent. at 0 m. 08 cent. each: the thickness of this wall is not great, about 0 m. 70 cent. It is best seen on the east and south faces. On the east side, near the niche, there is solid dry masonry between the two casings.

One shaft only of those yet found appears to belong to the original structure. This is on the south side of the wall, near the south niche (pl. III, 213): it is lined with stone, but leads to no chamber below. In it were a lot of pottery sherds, mostly of good red polished hemispherical bowls, which I suppose to have belonged to the original interment: among these, however, were little wooden boatmen and two mast tips of copper which were more probably derived from a Middle Kingdom tomb near by.

The building was not roofed: of this we may be sure, as along the north and west faces some metres length of the top course remains, while there is no sign of a pavement butting against it.

It must, rather early, have become covered with drifting sand, then built over with tombs that

were soon ruined in their turn : the north end was covered first : the wall or mastaba which was built up against it, may have helped sand to accumulate. The slope downwards from north to south can be seen on the west side, where a row of Xth Dynasty chapels was built, separated by a narrow lane from the older monument, and the line of their stone foundations is on a marked incline (pl. V).

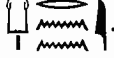
XTH-XIITH DYNASTY TOMBS.

Some of these tombs may be definitely of the Middle Empire and later than the rest, but in the absence of dated monuments, we may for the present group them all together : the greater number must belong to the period intermediate between the Old and Middle Kingdoms.

The tombs are of several types, some oblong with north and south shafts lined with brick, with or without a chamber at the bottom, others with square shafts : these had generally a chamber to the north.

Every tomb had been rifled in antiquity, not only of metal but often of most of the wood of the coffin and of the model boats. Notwithstanding this, enough had been left to show the similarity of the tombs and to fix them to the early Middle Kingdom. The numbers given are only references to field notes; the fact that one tomb is called n° 75 does not mean that 75 tombs of this character were ever found.

N° 8. One of a pair of intrusive burials on the top of the mastaba : the southern lining wall of the shaft was afterwards reused as a base for the end of a Bes chamber.

It was sunk between the inner and outer casings of the mastaba. The shaft was bricklined; below was a roof consisting of five stone blocks on which the brick lining partly rested, and under this a rectangular coffin, the sides of which were rather thin (0 m. 02 cent.) while the lid was of stouter wood (0 m. 04 cent.). The coffin was of plain wood outside with a line of incised text. The name of the deceased was . In the inside had been decorations of the ordinary Middle Kingdom type, one line of large hieroglyphs, religious texts below. But the tomb had been attacked by white ants, and the coffin had suffered greatly.

One cone of wood, a package carried by a servant, was all that remained of the set of servant statues. When the lid was removed, the body was seen to have been wrapped in many layers of cloth. Outside this had been a layer of yellow paint, probably on plaster; this had nearly all fallen to pieces, but a part of the mask showing the ears, eyes and whiskers in green line, could be removed.

The body lay on its left side, facing east. Close to the head lay a headrest, its shape still very clear, which retained no particle of wood : it consisted of white ant tunnels. The body bore a necklace, bracelets and anklets, and these were chiefly composed of rather stout cylindrical beads of very good green faience : in the necklace were also beads of another form, apparently derived from some long variety of beetle, not the scarab.

At the north end of the shaft was a recess : this was, no doubt, the door. There must have been another shaft to the north, but this was not cleared. In this recess was placed the pottery,

a large round-bottomed bowl containing bones from a calf's leg and also some mud, six vases of the short-necked, round-bottomed bottle form (pl. XXXII, 2, right), and one of the coarse red vases with slightly spreading mouth. This tomb must, presumably, have had a chapel above; a part of a stela with the name was found on the site, but not in close proximity to the tomb.

N° 9 was the tomb to the west of the last, evidently built at the same time. It was sunk through the inner wall of the mastaba. It had been robbed. Some gold leaf was in the filling, and two beads of the shape of a long beetle were found : they were of glazed steatite and bright in colour like many modern forgeries. Beside them there were four cylindrical beads also of steatite, a thin semi-circular plaque of bronze of the shape of an axehead, about 0 m. 04 cent. in length, and a bit of bronze wire. These must have come from a set of model tools. The interment was a richer one, probably, than its neighbour, and the fact that it was robbed while n° 8 was spared points to the robbery having taken place in very early times. Many signs, in this cemetery and elsewhere in Egypt, show that the tombs were often robbed but a very short time after they were built.

N° 17. This was the most elaborate of the intrusive tombs. Photographs of it and a plan are on plate XXI. The building consists of an oblong underground chamber, over 4 metres long, once covered by a massive brick arch, the long section of which can still be seen.

The shaft by which the body was introduced is to the north, cut through the outer casing of the mastaba. In the bottom of the chamber are two boxes of stones, one for the body, the other for the canopic vases. Each is formed by a double wall of stone, the outer of limestone blocks, keyed together by wooden dovetails, the inner of fine brown quartzite. The roof was also double. The sepulchral chamber had been closed by a portcullis. The space opposite the entrance was left empty, but the part of the east side not occupied by the canopic vase box was filled with bricks laid dry on edge.

Only two blocks of the roof remained *in situ* : another limestone block, tilted on edge, hung above the door.

The tomb had been laboriously broken into in ancient times : seven diorite hammer-stones were left behind by the robbers. Parts of four bodies (there were seven humeri), two of them mummified, were in the rubbish.



The original burial had a plastered cartonnage mask : so few fragments of the material remained that we cannot tell if the whole mummy was covered. The pieces found were of white plaster, finely modelled; they consisted of the nose and upper lip, this marked with a green line for the moustache, two eyes in black and white, with a red spot in the corners, bits of a green wig with black lines, and of the beard, which was square-ended and grooved horizontally. One fragment of coloured plaster, of yellowish brown with red lines, imitating wood, suggested that there had been a wooden coffin : for this there was scant space, but at this time the coffins were very narrow, and the body was laid on its side. Only five beads were found in the whole tomb : they were cylindrical, of green glaze and glass paste, one only disc-shaped.


Two of the potsherds used by the masons who built the tomb still remained in the filling. One was a piece of a coarse round-bottomed, shallow dish, containing some of the white plaster


used for the joints of the limestone building; another sherd had been used, first for the white plaster, afterwards for the mud mixed with straw with which the brick walls were daubed.

The arch above was very elaborate, consisting of at least nine courses, alternately north to south and east to west. The bricks are always on edge. The space between this arch and the double roof of stone was, presumably, left vacant.

Of the odd objects from the filling, a piece of water jar of the regular XIIth Dynasty type (as at El Kab) would, doubtless, belong to the first burial. Part of a wooden pillow, a univalve shell, a slip of wood from a coffin, a scarab with hawk displayed, and two wooden statuettes of sailors, may have the same origin. A Roman lamp dated the visit of a previous digger, while a bronze needle with an eye in the middle may come from one of the secondary burials.

Above and around this tomb were remains of brick walls which may have belonged to the chapel; it is more likely that they were of much later period, for built into the walls were two fragments of stone reliefs of that type which we may call Xth Dynasty, the stela of , and that of .



N° 74. Long shaft grave with chambers to north and south-west. The shaft is lined with bricks (0 m. 29 cent. × 0 m. 14 cent.). Both chambers were robbed. One had been blocked by a tall slab of stone (1 m. 20 cent. by 0 m. 70 cent., by 0 m. 20 cent.). In the filling, a fragment of glass of Roman period with embossed pattern, some coarse potsherds of Old Kingdom type, fragments of limestone, canopic jars 0 m. 21 cent. high, without lids (lids probably of wood), three fragments from a stela, one of them from the torus roll, and a few cylindrical beads: half way down was the table of offering of  (pl. XVIII). In the north chamber, — a rough cavity, two metres by one, cut in the rock, — were two bronze thimble-like caps (0 m. 02 cent. long) with two rows of eyelets: these are the tops of masts from model boats, and with them were eight model knives also of bronze. The pottery was in and near the west chamber. In type it seemed to be intermediate between the Old and Middle Kingdoms.

N° 75. This, the tomb of a certain  (pl. XXII), was the only inscribed tomb found. The chamber (3 metres by 1 m. 85 cent.) is formed of limestone slabs covered with thin plaster and decorated in the style of a Middle Kingdom sarcophagus: above is a line of titles in green, below pictures of the funerary furniture and religious texts. The chamber is entered from the north, where it opens into a square bricklined shaft. Above the stone roof was a brick arch to relieve the weight, and a brick wall enclosed the whole. The top of this wall is now at the level of the mastaba top: all that we see was built below ground. The chapel has disappeared.

The tomb had been robbed. In the bottom of the well on a slope lies the stone which blocked the door. Inside the chamber was a talus of wind-blown sand and mud washed in by the rain; and above could be seen a few pots and bones and one of the jambs of the door. There was a canopic vase of stone; near it, its lid, of wood with human face. The skull of the deceased remained, but most of the human bones were decayed: some bones from a calf's leg were recognisable. The coffin had almost disappeared, but much red dust of wood remained, and





three similar pieces of wood were probably the cross-bars below the coffin floor. A bead of carnelian of barrel shape was in the tomb, and in the well outside a small wooden tray painted white with black lines showed that the tomb once had a set of statuettes of servants.

Of the pots (pl. XXXII, 1), the vases with spouts, the stands and some of the small dishes are of good red washed ware : the shallow bowl and the two long vases are rather coarser.


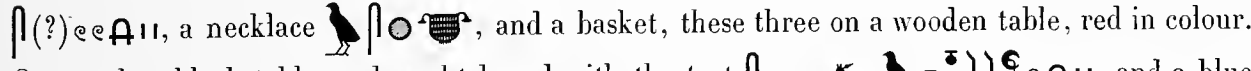
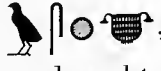
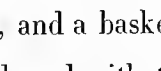
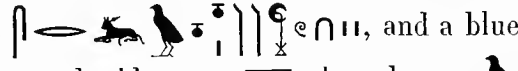
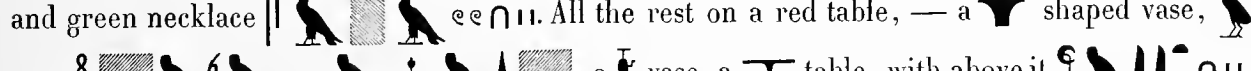

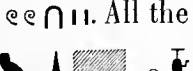
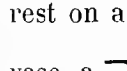
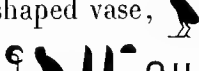

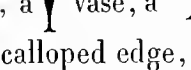
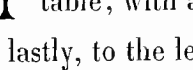
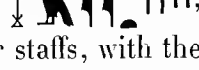

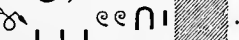
The canopic vase is of white limestone, o m. 26 cent. high. Round the shoulder is an inscription in red line, once filled in with blue : (→) *  .

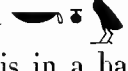
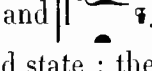
Fragments of a vase, apparently from the same set, were on the top of the mastaba at some yards distance.

The decoration on the walls is poorly and unequally preserved : the east and south sides have suffered most. It is painted, not directly on the stone, but on a layer of plaster, generally thin, but thickened where the joints or any pitting of the stone required it, and much of this plaster has fallen away. The top line of large hieroglyphs is incised and painted green. It reads :


West : (→)    .


Of the scenes below, there remains on the east side a table with a good drawing of a goose on it, and on the west, at the north end, is an elaborately painted false door; to the south of this, an upper register of objects depicted with names and numbers above them, and a lower one inscribed in black hieratic characters, with a much damaged religious text.

The funerary objects from right to left are : a wooden headrest, above it (→)   a necklace  , and a basket, these three on a wooden table, red in colour. On another black table, a draught-board with the text   and a blue and green necklace   . All the rest on a red table, — a  shaped vase,  a  vase, a  table, with above it   and below it a round-bottomed dish with scalloped edge, lastly, to the left, four staves, with the words .

On the jamb of the door on the west side, are two oil-jars inscribed  and . Below the paintings is a black dado, o m. 60 cent. high. The chamber is in a bad state : the walls have sunk, the floor sloping sharply to the two sides, and nearly all the stones are cracked.

It belongs to that numerous category of monuments which are too good to destroy, and not good enough to be kept in a museum.



N° 91. . A bricklined, oblong, north and south shaft in the filling of the mastaba: the bricks measure 0 m. 22 cent. by 0 m. 11 cent. by 0 m. 07 cent. To the south it opens into a long chamber, covered by a raking arch. In the middle of the floor is a depression, half a metre square and 0 m. 30 cent. deep, containing a round-bottomed, shallow bowl, placed upside down; under this was a mass of fine cloth 0 m. 20 cent. long and 0 m. 10 cent. in breadth and thickness, hopelessly carbonised. In the filling of the shaft and of the chamber were these objects:

A model of some fruit in wood, 0 m. 06 cent. long, two wooden arms from servants' or sailors' statuettes; a rough wooden statuette 0 m. 25 cent. high, with the name painted on the base; a piece of dom wood painted black with  inscribed on it in white; a part of an ivory wand; three small wooden figures from a boat, of poor work; one oar; fragments of a bowl with a spout; two coarse Old Kingdom pots.


The top of the shaft was just under the Greek pavement: from this the depth was about 4 m. 50 cent.

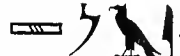
N° 98. Oblong grave, 1 m. 50 cent. by 0 m. 55 cent. Depth about 3 metres. No chamber. In the filling, fragments of small long-necked vases with single handle, of coarse vases, and of good bowls of Old Kingdom ware, also one fragment of a large dish (Middle Kingdom type) with coarse scores inside the edge.

N° 112. Oblong north and south bricklined shaft under the Greek pavement and opposite the gate in the wall. Bricks 0 m. 25 cent.

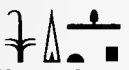


N° 113. Oblong north and south shaft like the last and near it. Bricks 0 m. 32 cent. Contained bit of wood from a coffin with green hieroglyphs, six small model tools of bronze, a vase  sign of wood (0 m. 04 cent. high), a pottery bowl of  type, fragments from another coarse bowl with very upright sides, and from a round-edged milk bowl.



N° 114. Shaft similar to and near the last two; contained fragments of a wooden coffin.

N° 117. Two parallel shafts, near where the west edge of the mastaba runs under the great brick wall. One is close to the mastaba's outer wall, indeed cuts into it; the other is separated by a brick partition. In the bottom of this is a nearly square (0 m. 57 cent. by 0 m. 64 cent.) bricklined depression, which contained pieces of a box of thin wood (0 m. 01 cent.) and some pottery. Of this there were many fragments, but all from four vases, a  bowl, two thin-edged round-bottomed, shallow bowls, and (one piece only) a round-edged milk bowl of good ware. The box had once, probably, held canopic vases. A hammer-stone of diorite was in the tomb.







N° 124. . A square shaft west of the Xth Dynasty stelæ, lined with rubble

work down to the rock. In the filling were pottery fragments from milk bowls, from very small saucers, from a round-bottomed coarse cylindrical vase, and from a large Middle Kingdom water jar; also bits of wooden oars from a boat, and a piece of bone from a crocodile's back. Below, to the north, was a chamber 2 m. 60 cent. long, in it a coffin, badly broken down. The tomb was full of rubbish. East of the coffin was the prow of a model boat, some bones from a calf's leg, to the south a group of pots, one shallow round-bottomed bowl full of rotten and blackened cloth, two coarse cylindrical vases with slightly spreading mouths; both contained mud, and one was pierced below. There were also some pots of unbaked clay, very coarse and distorted. Over the body was a very thick (0 m. 05 cent.) covering of cloth, black and brittle. Some gold leaf was on the neck, and on the chest were the beads, short cylinders and discs of good blue and white faience; the disc-shaped end-pieces, also of faience, were nearly black.

The body lay on its back, head to the north, the arms extended. The coffin lid was painted yellow: on it stood a wooden model of a furnace. The lid was incised and inscribed in blue with a  inscription: similar texts were on the sides and ends. The man was a  and , and attached to the pyramid of Teta.

N° 127.  . An irregular square shaft in the rock, west of the mastaba and north of the brick wall. Below, to the east, is a chamber: in the south side of this, lying east and west, were parts of two coffins, both badly decayed. The outer one had been decorated internally; paintings of a vase and necklace were seen; outside it was yellow with inscription in black lines. The inner coffin was of thin wood, in very bad condition, with a veneer of better wood which had preserved the name.

N° 130. Second shaft behind the Khuy stela, with chamber to south, contained pottery (pl. XXXII, 2) and wooden figures from a boat.


N° 135.   (pl. XXIII). Burial under the great wall. The builders of the wall had cut away most of the brick shaft, but a little can be seen in the first photograph. The bricks were 0 m. 25 cent. and 0 m. 27 cent. long. Over the outer coffin was a roof of limestone slabs: the outer coffin was heavy, the lid being 0 m. 14 cent. thick, and the sides 0 m. 10 cent. It was painted yellow outside and had a line of blue hieroglyphs on the lid: inside it was white. The wood was much decayed. The inner coffin is of wood 0 m. 03 cent. thick. On the north end in blue    . The body lies on left side, with head north and face west, kept in position by the narrowness (0 m. 33 cent.) of the coffin. The face is opposite the painted false door. Above the crown of the head was a pillow of wood, eaten out by ants, and before the body a long staff destroyed in the same way. Before the face was a mask, white with green lines to indicate moustache and beard. The body was covered loosely with a shroud, below which were numerous layers of cloth, fine outside, coarser below, all blackened and brittle: fifteen were counted. In the middle of the cloth were cross bandages round the


hips, and the head was also carefully and tightly wrapped. The beads, cylindrical in shape and of faience, lay in a heap below the chin, the two disc-shaped end-pieces close together : the necklace was, therefore, not fastened round the neck.


Outside the coffin, to the north, was a single squatting wooden figure, all that remained of a boat.

N° 148. Square shaft west of the Xth Dynasty stelæ, contained in the filling a fragment of a small stela of the same period.

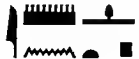

N° 153. One of the crowded group of shafts west of the mastaba : above it was the pavement, continuous with that on which the sphinxes were placed.

The shaft is square (1 m. 60 cent.) lined with rough stone and mud, 6 m. 40 cent. deep as found. To the north is a chamber just wide enough to contain a coffin : the lid was half open, and the skull outside. Traces of linen bandages on the skull. On the coffin lid and on the sides and ends, incised inscriptions with the name of .

N° 155. Another square shaft in the same group. In it were part of a stela with the name , the bow of a model boat, one wooden statuette and a fragment of another.

N° 158. Shaft in the same group, much deeper than the rest (9 metres below the base of the Apa stela) : in it several fragments of a stela bearing the name .

NEW EMPIRE AND LATER BURIALS.

A number of poor burials have been classed together as belonging to this period : they should probably be placed somewhere between the XXIInd Dynasty and the Ptolemies, but there was little in the graves themselves whereby to date them. The coffins were all of poor execution, mummiform, generally of wood, with the face and wig moulded in clay and brightly coloured. There was no recognisable chamber or shaft : all were shallow earth burials, though some, owing to changes in the surface of the desert, were at a considerable depth when found. Beads were frequent, but few pots were recovered, and no mirrors or papyrus. The teeth were often very much worn down, and this too points to the bodies being those of poor people. The bones were frequently in bad condition, perhaps through the shallowness of the graves. The bodies lay with head west and feet east. In only two cases was a name found,  and , both on plaques in necklaces; the latter was on a cartouche-shaped plaque of rude work and may well mean Shabaka.

N° 31. Late grave above mastaba. Body in a box of thin wood, roofed with small limestone blocks. Head to north. Beads blue and white faience cylinders and semi-circles. This is an exceptional grave and in bad condition.

N° 96. Coffin apparently entirely of mud, but this is unlikely : it would be of wood covered

with mud and the wood had decayed. Head west. A slight bronze bracelet. Bones in bad condition.

N° 104. Wooden coffin with mud face, body on the back, arms extended. Traces of painting. Found under Greek pavement.

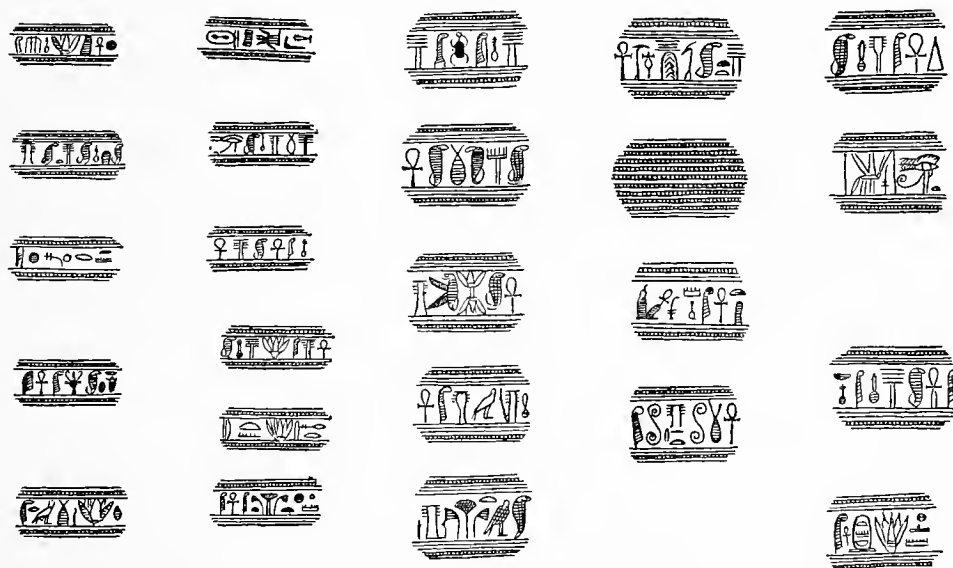
N° 105. Similar coffin, cut off at the knees by the men who made the Greek pavement.

N° 109 A. A burial in thin wooden coffin (0 m. 01 cent.). Face on the lid white, wig blue. A cloth tie used to lower into the grave remained round middle.

N° 190. A body with a painted mud covering following the lines of its form. Blue disc beads. On leg a small yellow frog and eye of blue glaze.

N° 161. Burial near south niche of mastaba. It cuts through the wall of a chamber of brick which itself is later than the mastaba. Beads over chest, red glass spheres and ivory cylinders. A girdle of similar beads (two strings) round waist; a few small red glass discs. Below each ear a red glass earstud. Round the ankles a single string of disc beads : outside the coffin, near the head, to south, an alabaster vase with small handles. Below the shoulders one barrel-shaped head, blue with diagonal white stripes.

N° 165. Burial near south niche of mastaba. Only the upper part of the body was preserved : it lay on its back with head to west. Round the waist was a girdle consisting of three strings, the upper one of blue disc beads, the lower of discs of white shell, while the middle string consisted of incised ivory beads separated by groups of three discs : the decoration of the ivory beads is given below. Round the neck was a row of blue shield-shaped plaques, each bearing a figure of Maat.



N° 181. Child burial in coffin near south niche : a mat of halfa grass above the box. Quantity of beads and shells.

N° 182. Four bodies close by the last. The first was in a clay-covered coffin, the clay not only on the head but over the sides : the second, an older disturbed body with a cord round the waist, the third a much disturbed skeleton, and the fourth a child burial with beads (blue discs, red glass discs, shells). All these were roughly oriented west and east, but had been disturbed. Below them were a group of large vases with double handles (pl. XXV, 2).




N° 183. Below this group of vases another poor burial, with the head south and midribs of palm leaves below the back.

N° 184. Near the last, but just south of the corner of the inner wall of the mastaba, an anthropoid coffin at level of top of niche as now left. Face of the coffin of wood, lappels of the wig of mud. Inner coffin with face of white plaster painted yellow : it has the feet indicated on the lid in high relief, moulded in mud and painted white.

N° 185. Body of child, near last. Head west, body east, face to north. Over the hips a girdle laid in a ring 0 m. 20 cent. in diameter.

This consists of shells and of two faience eyes : the shells are strung on a series of thongs made up into a rope, from which they stick out in all directions. There were traces of a wooden coffin 0 m. 23 cent. wide. On the chest were an oval plaque(?) of thin silver, a glaze pig, two glaze eyes, two red beads and one green spherical one. In the hair on the right side was a minute silver ring. Under the head were plaits of hair. A bracelet on the left arm consisted of small disc beads, six shells, a spherical carnelian, a bronze cylinder and a pig; there was also a good quadruple mystic eye, but this may have belonged to the girdle. Under the body a fish, a Bes(?) and an earring, all minute, but of silver.

N° 186. A body buried in a cartonnage, disturbed and incomplete. Only the upper half was found. This was above the south niche of the mastaba. The mask had gone. On the chest was a somewhat elaborate ornament for a necklace, below the beginning of a column of text surmounted by a black Anpu. The cartonnage was rather peculiar, as between the folds of cloth there was 0 m. 002 mill.-0 m. 003 mill. of mud mixed with chopped straw.

N° 208. Child burial in square-ended coffin beyond south end of mastaba. Beads on ankles, blue discs only : on waist more beads and a plaque with the name  near the right hand, two silver rings, one with a flat bezel, the other with a small scarab inscribed  .

N° 211. Near the last, another child burial without a coffin, but with palm-rods below the back. Round the neck shells, one faience sacred eye and a pierced pebble.

N° 214. Over the south-east corner of the mastaba, a mummiform child's coffin in bad condition, but still bright in colour; the decoration is in yellow and blue, the figures outlined in red. Over the ribs a string of seven small crocodiles in faience.

N° 89. A group of poor burials was found just above the stelæ of the Xth Dynasty, west

of the mastaba and north of the great wall. Of one only the upper part was preserved: part of a staff before the face. Close by this, to the north, a mummiform coffin, painted white, the face pink; it was made of wood plastered with mud. Ornament in black, red and blue on white ground. At the feet the upper part of the Khuy (pl. XIV) stela became visible as the coffin was cleared. At the same level, fragments of indigo blue glaze and sherds of a pinkish ware with demotic inscriptions suggested a late date, not long before the Ptolemies, for these burials. Four more bodies here demand no additional notes.

N° 109. Between the double stairway and the great wall at the west of the plan, and in the sand bed just below the foundation of the wall, was a group of seven bodies of the same type as the last; one was really under the wall.

With these we must class three burials, in which the real coffin was covered by a kind of canopy with the four columns at the corners rising above the arched roof.

N° 132. South of the double stairway in the west of the site, below and parallel with this pavement. Wood thin. Elaborate necklace painted on inner lid.

N° 202. Outer coffin or canopy red, with rough hieroglyphs in yellow; inner painted with lotus necklace pattern. Beads at neck and waist of commonest cylindrical and disc faience types. This near south end of mastaba.

N° 205. Lies north and south. End of the arch an arc of a circle, painted red, blue and white. An inscription down centre board but no name. Inner coffin mummiform with green face, wig of blue and white stripes. The coffin contained two bodies (pl. XXV, 3, 4).

LATEST PRAE-COPTIC BURIALS.

These were a group near the southern extension of the Greek pavement and close to it in level. The lid of one was 0 m. 50 cent. below, another 0 m. 30 cent., etc. The most important were in heavy limestone sarcophagi, with plain lids, the head end somewhat rounded, the foot end square, the inside carved out to fit the shape of the mummy: the type is a common Roman one. Two of these sarcophagi are shown in plate XXV, 1.

The mummies were very carefully wrapped and rather well preserved; they were covered, indeed packed with a mass of granular salty material, probably crude natron, and layers of the same material were between the cloth wrappings.

A grass rope, used to let the sarcophagus down, was found below one of them (167). On the mummy some painted plaster decoration had been stitched on in separate bits, each 0 m. 10 cent. by 0 m. 04 cent., thus, over the knees Isis and Nebhat faced each other and on the trunk were the four genii: a network of beads too was painted on the outer wrapping.

Over the first found of these limestone coffins, resting on it as if it had been a tombstone, was a short tapering column (0 m. 60 cent.) a truncated cone on a square base. In another, a part of a wooden comb lay beneath the skull, and near it were some fragments of vegetable matter, perhaps from a wreath, and part of an alabaster vase. One must suppose that these

burials were subsequent to the decay of the temple, but earlier than the general adoption of Christianity.

At the same level with them was a crowded group of other burials, two of them in brick-arched graves, but most merely wrapped in cloth, oriented in various directions and evidently buried in haste. «This was done in cholera time», immediately said the workmen, and they were probably right.

COPTIC BURIALS.

One of these is shown as found in plate XXIV. Specimens of the leaves and grasses are in plate XXXIX, and of the cloth in plate XXXVIII. More than a score of these bodies were examined, but they differed so slightly one from the other that a description of one will serve for all. The body lay on its back, head west, feet east. Over the face and over the feet were bundles of leaves or grass, tied up with red string or sometimes wrapped in cloth. The body was clothed in an embroidered shirt, sometimes in two shirts : outside was an outer wrapping of a very coarse cloth, like jute sacking, and the whole was loosely lashed round with a lot of red and black string. There was no coffin generally, but under the back a sort of mat made of a few midribs of palm leaves (*gerid*), sometimes fastened with palm fibre : this was inside the outer wrapping, and it was not a floor to the grave, but a sort of backboard to the dead body. The condition of the bodies was bad : the cloth in most cases was so decayed as to have become mere dust, violet, red or yellow as the case might be. With one body a green glass bowl was found (pl. XXXIV, 1, middle of bottom row), and a spinning whorl with reed stem and a comb; with another, that of a child, a bronze cross on the left arm, and in the hand, tightly clasped, a little rag doll (pl. XXXVIII, 4). The child had on two shirts, the sleeves of which were preserved, the outer one of dark red material with two bands of white and blue embroidery corded on the sleeve, the inner one of yellowish cloth with two bands of woven work. The burials were shallow.

THE BES CHAMBERS.

These were of very rough construction, the walls made of rubble and mud mortar and faced with a mud plaster. Four such rooms may be counted : three are marked on the plan (pl. III) with the numbers 11, 13, 14, and the fourth is the small room between 13 and the Middle Kingdom shafts 8 and 9. 14 was on a lower level than the others and they again were at least 1 m. 50 cent. below the level of the ground to the west of them; they were not intended to be conspicuous.

In 14 the figures stood on a bench of brick one metre wide, at the west end of which were two low cross walls. A door led up by three steps to the small room behind 11. In 11, there was a door and a window to the east; from 13, a door and two windows opened into 11. Another bench was at the north end of this room.

The walls were decorated with figures of Bes from one metre to 1 m. 50 cent. in height, moulded of clay in very high relief (to 0 m. 30 cent.) covered with stucco and painted; pegs of wood, driven in various directions into the mud, served to consolidate the structure.

The distribution of the figures was as follows :

Room 14. Best preserved group (Frontispiece and pl. XXVII).

Room north of 13. Bes group with ape (pl. XXVIII, 2).

Room 13, west side. Painting (pl. XXIX, 2).

Room 13, east side. A group not illustrated, similar to XXIX, 1, but in bad condition.

Room 11, west side. Bes group and painting (pl. XXVIII, 1, and pl. XXIX, 3).

Room 11, east side. Two Bes groups (pl. XXVI and XXIX, 1; detail in pl. 1).

A figure of Bes and fragments of yet another were found to the east of the rest : there may then have been another chamber north of 14.

Nothing was found to show the nature of the roof. In the filling were small Ptolemaic bronze coins, pottery and faience and limestone phallic figures. There were also four of the funnel-shaped pottery censers which may have been introduced from earlier tombs, for they were indistinguishable from Middle Kingdom specimens; also two lead tokens, with a bull on the obverse, and Serapis(?) on reverse, two poor bronze situlæ and a small man on horseback in limestone, in poor condition, but of Greek work.

Of the pots the open cooking vessels (pl. XXXIII, 2), the very small vases with handles (pl. XXXIII, 4), and the black ware with fluted ornament (pl. XXXIII, 1) were characteristic.

The faience fragments were of light blue, of a dark indigo blue, and one piece was of bright green : the shapes were two, a flat bottomed bowl with small foot, and a cylindrical tumbler.

The phallic figures were numerous, especially in room 14. Thirty-two were found on the site, and most came from these chambers. The figures are about 0 m. 10 cent. long, generally represented as playing on a drum; they are painted red, but several have a white cloak with strap over the left shoulder. Two are seated on the tops of lotus capitals; two wear the side lock, painted black.

These figures are common enough at Mitrahineh and at other sites; the curious point here is that they were manufactured on the spot, for unfinished specimens were found, merely roughed out from the stone. The prominence of these statuettes has suggested to me a view of Bes which explains very simply his presence on many of the objects on which he frequently appears, the view being that Bes, at any rate from the New Kingdom on, was the god of love in its animal sense. He follows Thoueris, who presided over child birth, he is represented on mirrors and toilet articles, on bedsteads (as in those of Yuua and Thuaa), he holds a snake, a common phallic symbol, in his hand, in late terracottas he is represented as a grotesque phallic figure, he was a very popular deity and is found as an amulet even

in Christian burials (Naga-el-Dêr), as Mace informs me; his memory, indeed, has not died out to this day. Lastly, in Bes statues Lortet has found aborted fetuses (LORTET-GAILLARD, *Faune momifiée*, 2^e série, p. 201-205).

As to the use of this group of chambers, the most obvious explanation is that they were ἀφροδίσια. They are, presumably, of the Ptolemaic period.

THE GREAT BRICK WALLS. GISR EL-NEHAS.

On De Morgan's map of Saqqara, sheet 10, there is, to the east of the pyramid of Teta, an irregular double quadrilateral, printed in green as being of the Greek period. The east and west line common to the two quadrilaterals is the southern of our two massive walls; the northern one is not indicated.

All the evidence we obtained supported the date hitherto given to this monument, but there was nothing to show for what purpose so extensive an enclosure could have been made. The perimeter of the whole structure must be over one thousand eight hundred metres, and the walls are eight to ten metres thick. The only explanation that suggests itself is, that the walls served as a protection for the people who came then, as they do now, at certain festivals, to camp in the cemeteries, to feast the poor and mourn over their dead.

In their construction the walls are very similar to those of El-Kab : the curved courses, the construction in detached blocks separated by vertical joints, the projecting angle at those joints, are the same in both. But at Saqqara, all the curved courses seen in the face of the wall are concave, higher at the ends than in the middle, while at El-Kab some are convex. In a section taken from north to south, across the wall, the courses are, however, convex : this can be seen well in the gateway and also where, further north, a track was cut through the wall (pl. VIII). The dip in the long courses (1 in 343) is much less than the rise (1 in 54) seen in the section at the gateway.

The bricks are very large, 0 m. 40 cent. by 0 m. 20 cent.; thirteen of them form a camel load. They contain a lot of straw, are very well made, and, in the lower part of the wall, perfectly preserved.

Beds of reeds are laid at intervals between the courses, sometimes above every second course, sometimes at every third. Logs, too, were placed across the wall as binders at intervals of about 0 m. 80 cent. (pl. VII). A few of them remain, about 0 m. 10 cent. diameter; many have been prised out. Bricks have been moulded of a special shape for the skin of the wall so as to give a smooth surface and avoid gaping joints, but it is only on the outside that such care was taken; underneath, the bricks are all headers.




In the upper part of the wall, the surface is much decayed. At the ancient ground level it is still more decayed, indeed channelled out, but below this the surface is as fresh as when first finished.

Near the mastaba, on the west side, there is another ancient wall below the one of which we write; on the south side, there is half a metre of rubbish between the foot of the Greek

wall and the top of the older one; on the north side, the later wall reposes on the earlier. There is nothing, however, to prove that this whole system of walls is a reconstruction.

AMULETS.

A considerable number of amulets were picked up in the upper layers. Some of them may be derived from tombs, but many, perhaps most, were dropped by visitors to the temple and cemetery. At a certain stage, they were classified, counted, and the result is given in the following table :

I	26	Lotus flower	8	Bes	5	Horus	1
	26	Isis and Horus	8	Sow	5	Shrine	1
Thoueris	16	Compound eye	5		2	Pasht	1
Nefertum	12		5	Hawk	1	Seated lion	1
Ptah Sokar	10	Thoth	5	Winged ape	1	Cat	1
Anpu	9						

DESCRIPTION OF PLATES.

FRONTISPIECE. — A figure of Bes and of his companion goddess. The god is 1 m. 50 cent. high, made of unbaked clay stiffened by pegs of wood, covered with a thin coating of plaster and painted. He probably held a knife in the hand now broken away : in the other we see the head of a snake. The female wears only anklets, necklace, etc., but has a figure (Nefertum?) tattooed on the chest. Bes wears the regular leopard's skin.

PLATE I. — The fragment of decoration of bees on a vine is from above the head of another of the female figures (pl. XXIX). The Apis above shows that the building was connected with the Serapeum.

PLATE II. — Shows the general plan. The main feature on the north side is a massive stone wall running east and west; it formed part of the foundation of the Ptolemaic temple. Parallel to it, on the south side, is a much more massive wall of brick, also of a late period, which runs over the top of the large mastaba. The chambers with the Bes decoration are also at a higher level than the mastaba and, in part, built right over it. Their axis forms a right angle with the main brick wall. To the west of the mastaba is a group of Middle Empire or late Old Kingdom tombs : among these, and near to the main wall, were found the Xth Dynasty stelæ. On the north is an angle of massive masonry, apparently part of another and later mastaba. One end of the angle butts against the main mastaba face : the other has been cut away to facilitate the building of the Ptolemaic wall of stone. Inside the angle are two intrusive burials and similar shafts were found in the space between the two mastabas. On the western side of the map we see the two stairways, the earlier one of brick, the later one of limestone, which led to a higher terrace. Between these stairways and the Xth Dynasty tombs near the mastaba is an area covered with massive blocks of local limestone, apparently foundations for some earlier building. To the south of the great wall little detail was discovered in this season : a deep craterlike hole was dug, and part of the south edge of the mastaba was bared. Above it, at the Greek level, was a paved road which joined the opening in the great wall to a gateway in the second massive wall further south. The scale of the map should have been given as about 1 : 600; it is more closely 1 : 590.

PLATE III. — The great mastaba, owing to the quantity of detail, requires a plan to itself. The outer casing consists of blocks of fine limestone from Tourah : along the western face and part of the northern, the original topmost course remains undisturbed, but on the east side the level is lower, the building having suffered from quarrying in early times. Inside the fine casing is a second wall of local stone, and within this the body of the mastaba was filled with chips. The foundations were not reached all round the building : along the west

face and at the south end, more digging will be necessary. No chamber was found. The round lintel had disappeared from both stelæ and nothing remained to show the name of the owner of the tomb.

Two types of intrusive burials can be seen : the oblong shafts with long axis running north and south are lined with brick or stone and are of the Middle Empire; the lining walls project above the mastaba top. One of these tombs (17) is more elaborate than the rest (see pl. XXI). The wall of two others (8 and 9) was rebuilt to form a sidewall to one of the Bes chambers. The smaller burials at right angles to the first group are of Coptic date.

The Greek pavement is at a higher level, 1 m. 50 cent. above the top of the mastaba.

PLATE IV. — A view of the mastaba from the end of the old tip to the west, taken during the inundation (25 November 1905).

The water level is about 40 metres below the top of the mastaba.

In the foreground are the Xth Dynasty tombs : the west and north sides of the mastaba come next. On the right a part of the Greek pavement is left *in situ* : the sphinx seen in the centre has been lowered from the level of this pavement and moved some metres to the north. The walls rising above the mastaba top are those of Middle Empire shafts. On the right further back the rubble masonry of the Bes chambers will be noticed; one Bes figure is visible. Beyond these, and on the extreme right, is the great wall (Gisr el-Nehas) : the vertical edge is the point where (pl. III) the wall suddenly narrows.

PLATE V. — A view looking westward, taken from the Greek pavement north of the gate in the wall : this was before the two stairways were found.

In the background the top of the Teta pyramid appears over the mounds : the nearer mound to the right consists of the rubbish thrown from the previous excavations of Barsanti.

On the left is the great wall. The middle distance is occupied by a group of Xth Dynasty tombs : parts of the stelæ of Apa and Khuy are still in place, further to the right is the stela of Hershafnekht, a little higher is the table of offerings of Beba and on the right edge the floor of the little chapel of Kheti. In the foreground are some blocks of the Greek pavement with the base of a sphinx upon it, and below, in the shade, is the roof of the mastaba.

PLATE VI. — This was taken (in November 1905) from a point on Mariette's rubbish heaps to the north. In the lower right hand corner is the end of the stone wall which I take to belong to the foundations of a Ptolemaic temple : to the left are a few fragments with Ptolemaic inscriptions. These come from the gateway close by on a lower level. The block of masonry in the foreground, which retains a cap of untouched desert surface, is what remains of the cross wall with a central gate which runs across the site from the Gisr to the north boundary wall.

The whole northern face of the mastaba is exposed. On the left side are some remains of the Bes chambers. The east side of the mastaba appears below them.

In the background is the great wall, or Gisr el-Nehas, as it is called locally; in it are two

breaks; that to the left is the original gateway; the one to the right was broken through by ourselves in order to give a passage to our railway.

PLATE VII. — The view is taken from the top of the Barsanti tip, looking west : on the left is the north face of the great wall; on the right, low down, is the edge of the tip. The brick wall with rubble backing is at right angles to the main wall and served to support an upper terrace. This wall is curious as an example of false pointing; the bricks were laid as headers; then the face of the wall was daubed over with mud, and on this with white paint the bricks were indicated as if properly bonded. This common artifice in modern jerrybuilding is clearly nothing new.

To the upper terrace two stairways served, at different times, as an approach; the earlier one had foundations of brick, the later of stone and the two buildings are slightly askew to each other. The pavement on which the man sits is of the same construction, and is at the same level as the pavement with sphinxes found above the mastaba. Below the wall are holes made by us in removing some burials of the Middle Empire which had been spared by the builders of the wall.

PLATE VIII. — This gives the same area as the last plate, but as seen from the opposite, the west end. The camera stood over the double stairway.

To the left a little of the pavement can be seen. On the right is the brick wall : the groove at half its height shows where the ground level stood in Ptolemaic times. At the vertical section in the wall we can distinguish that the courses seen running from one side to the other are convex. Some of the rough pavement used to level the site lies between the wall and the stairway pavement. Further in the background are the walls of the Xth Dynasty tombs, then the mastaba and the Greek pavement above it projecting both to north and south of the great wall.

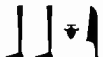

PLATE XI. — Shows two more views of the small patch of ground which yielded the Xth Dynasty stelæ. In the upper one the part of the street of tombs from Hershafnekht to Kheti can be seen; in the middle are two tables of offerings, of  and . In the other, which was taken earlier, the remains of the chapel of Kheti are seen before the stela was removed; it was found fallen on its face on the table of offerings, and had just been tilted on edge.

PLATE X. — 1. Two large hemispherical pots, each with a hole broken in the bottom; above them lay, end to end, two channelled blocks of limestone, the channel being on the lower face : they were tipped over to be photographed. These pots were below the floor of a chamber in the cross wall (north and south) seen in the view below : presumably they were used as a drain.

2. View taken from the Ptolemaic gateway in the north east of the site (pl. II) : in the foreground some blocks of the pavement of this gateway are visible. In the large hole we

in plate V, in front of the similar stela of Khuy (pl. XIV). In the patches where damp of salt have darkened the stone the text is not clear, so it is given again below.


On the cornice : (\rightarrow) On the cornice : (\rightarrow)

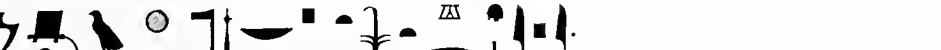
[illegible]

Left outer jamb :

[illegible]

Lower lintel : 

Left middle jamb : 

Right middle jamb : 

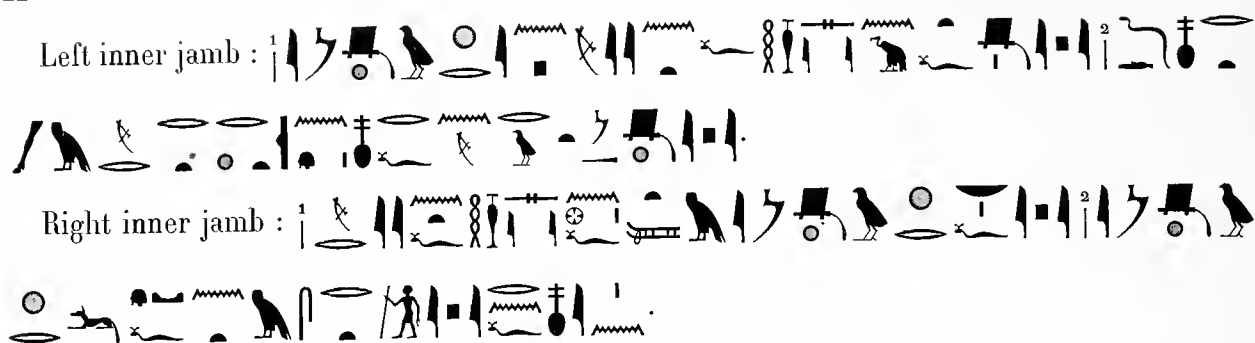


PLATE XIV. — Stela of Khuy. Height 1 m. 71 cent., breadth 1 m. 03 cent. His chapel seems to have been usurped by Apa. Apa was priest of the two pyramids of Merkara and Teta, Khuy of Teta alone.

On the left is a fragment of a scene of the slaughter of an ox.

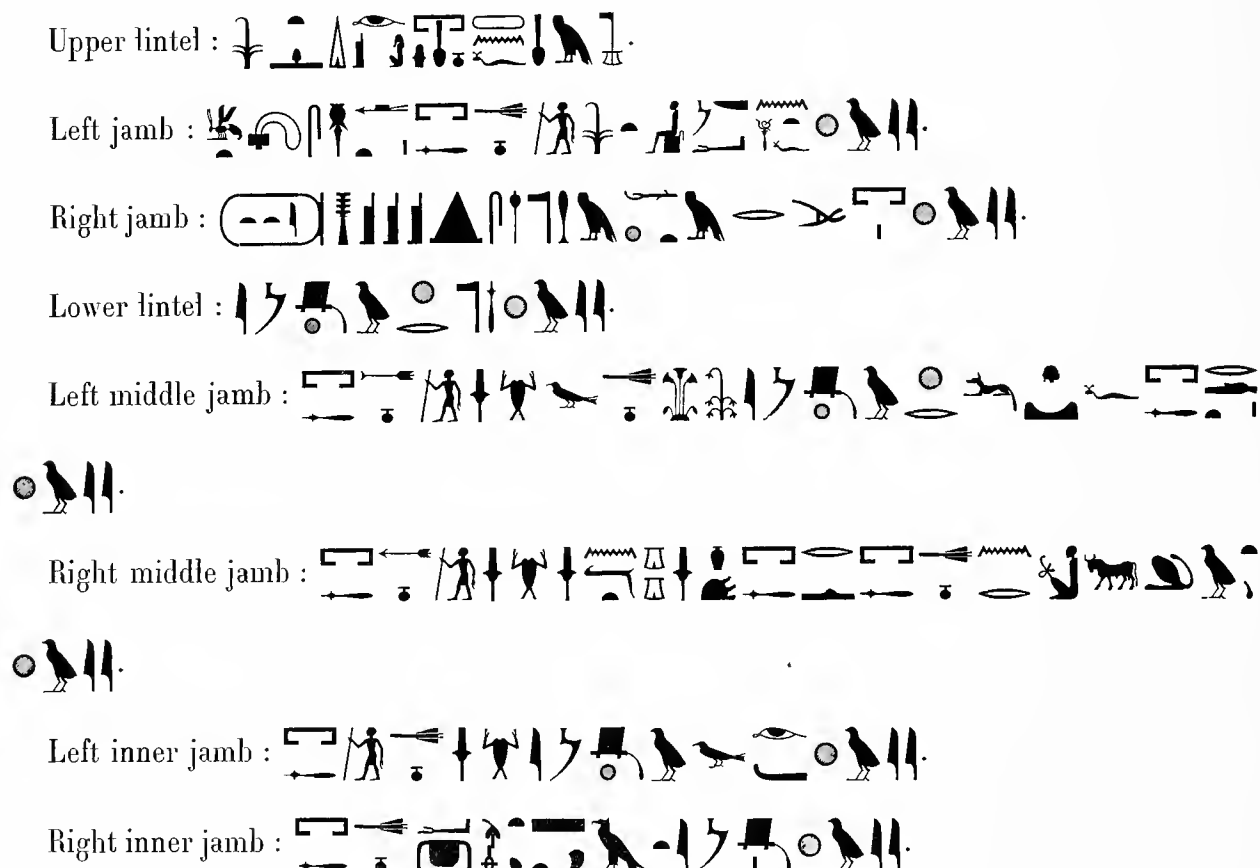






PLATE XV. — Stela of Anpuemhat. Height 1 m. 56 cent., breadth 0 m. 96 cent. This must have stood close to the stela of Apa, to the south of it, but had fallen forwards. Here again we have priesthoods of the two pyramids of Teta and Merkara.


PLATE XVII. — Six fragments of stelæ, all but one of the same type as those already given.


1. The block of  was found south of the great wall, and the untouched tomb of a , probably the same person, was found in the following winter (1906-1907).

2. The lower part of the stela of  was not found; the part preserved measures 0 m. 72 cent. by 0 m. 62 cent.

3. This is interesting from the presence of the name  which supports, so far as it goes, the dating which the names of Merkara and Hershafnekht would suggest, the intermediate period between the Old and Middle Kingdoms.


4. Stela of . Height 0 m. 56 cent.


5. A fragment with the name, so common here, of . Height 0 m. 53 cent.


6. A much worn lower half of a stela of a certain . Height 0 m. 48 cent.

This was found with two other stones, the stela of Merithotep (pl. XIX, 2), and a table of offerings bearing the same name.

PLATE XVIII. — Tables of offerings of the same period as the stelæ.

1. . Length 0 m. 50 cent., breadth 0 m. 44 cent.

2. . Length 0 m. 64 cent.

3. . Length 0 m. 92 cent., breadth 0 m. 52 cent.




4. . Length 0 m. 58 cent.

PLATE XIX. — In this plate and the next are collected stelæ and parts of stelæ with a flat surface, that is, without the panelling of the false doors; they have also an ornament running down one side, but not the other. They must have served as flanking pieces to the recessed stelæ; their style and the position in which they were found shows that they belong to the same period.

1. Fragments of one of these side pieces from a stela. Width 0 m. 52 cent.

Above part of a menu, below the sacrifice of an ox, in the middle of a good scene of presentation of offerings. A little figure kneels before a table; before him is the text  to the right is a standing priest, reciting, with one arm raised; behind are

three men kneeling; above their heads are the words  while on the extreme right a man with a brush in his hand is turning away.

2. Stela of Merithotep. Height 0 m. 95 cent.


The four jars of oil, the sacrifice, the three carriers of offerings and the lady seated at table give a short summary of the scenes depicted in the mastabas. This, like the preceding, is from the right side of a stela.


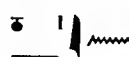

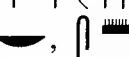

3. Stela of Anpuemhat. Height 0 m. 70 cent.

Rather rough work; the figures are blocked out and the background cut away, but there is little modelling in the figures. The name of the wife is Sebeksit.


PLATE XX. — 1. In this the flanking stela has been much simplified. Only the menu, the table and the owner's figure and name remain. But the band of ornament is on one side only, and the stone belongs to the same class as the others in the plate. The work is very rough.

2. Another fragment. Breadth 0 m. 33 cent.

Of slatey coloured limestone. Parts of three registers remain : the upper one is a scene of ploughing, the middle one of reaping and gleaning, and the lower of fowling. The name of the deceased  is written in the last : he has just struck a duck on the wing with a throwstick.

Part of another line  further to the right. The texts in the middle scene appear to be , , , and .

There are traces of red and black colour; the execution is much superior to the last.

3. Lower part of a stela. Breadth 0 m. 44 cent. Name . Colours rather bright. The style recalls that of the work at Dendera.

4. Fragment showing the owner of the tomb together with his daughter, bird-catching from a papyrus boat in the marshes.





5. Fragment. Breadth 0 m. 36 cent. Only one scene is complete; it is the Old Kingdom motive of bird-catching with a clap-net, here much simplified, but the effect is pleasing. Below is the name  preceded by three titles. Another inscription facing left, began to the right of this;  is all that remains. Relief is rather high, work much like n° 4; traces of red colour.

PLATE XXI. — Two photographs, a plan and a section, of the largest of the intrusive tombs in the mastaba (pl. III, n° 17). The first shows the level to which the walls of the upper

building or chapel were denuded : on the left is the section of the very strong brick arch : it consisted of nine superposed layers, alternately headers and stretchers. The little bits of limestone used to fill the angles between the bricks will be noticed. The second photograph shows the vault which took the place of a sarcophagus and the square box for the canopic vases, etc. Both of these are made of blocks of fine quartzite in the interior, of limestone outside. The roof too is double. The outer blocks are fastened with wooden dovetails. On the roof are several of the diorite hammers with which the tomb was destroyed.

PLATE XXII. — The two photographs are of the same tomb of  (n° 75, p. 4). The upper one shows the external appearance, the shaft on the right; this was, clearly, all constructed below ground level. The base of the brick arch above the stone roof can just be seen.

Below is one of the best preserved pieces of the interior decoration.

PLATE XXIII. — Four views of a coffin (n° 135) of early Middle Kingdom bearing the name . The builders of the great wall had dug down to the limestone slabs which covered the coffin, had broken down the brick walls of the shaft, but had not disturbed the burial (1). The thick outer coffin was much decayed : the inner one in good condition (2, 3). The body lay on the left side facing east (4).

The four views show successive stages of clearing.

PLATE XXIV. — 1. A sphinx, as found near the edge of the Ptolemaic pavement on which it had once stood. Sphinx and base had been overthrown together.

2. One of the Coptic burials, above the mastaba : it lies across a Middle Kingdom intrusive burial, the walls of which were cut through in order to lay the body in place. Bundles of plants lie over the head and feet. In the background is the edge of the Greek pavement.

PLATE XXV. — 1. Two heavy limestone coffins containing mummies of a very late but prae-Christian period. The view is taken from the south end of the mastaba. The coffins lay at the level of the Greek pavement : they were buried, therefore, when the ground level was somewhat above that pavement.

2. A scene from a group of late New Kingdom burials near the south east corner of the mastaba, and close to the south niche. The burials have all been disturbed : the pots were plugged with clay and contained black ashes. On the right is a box coffin covered with a mat : in the background is a cartonnage. The level was about 0 m. 70 cent. above the remaining stones of the false door.

3. Two views of a peculiar burial. Outside was an oblong cover with four uprights and rounded top. Texts in yellow paint along the frame, but no name. Within this was a mummiform coffin with face painted green, wig blue and white. It contained two skeletons, one lying with

the head northward and feet southward, the other in the reverse position. The lower body had the head to the south, and was so placed correctly in the coffin.

PLATE XXVI. — One of the Bes chambers (pl. III, 11), seen from the west. Two figures of the god, each with his female companion on his right, decorate the east wall of the room. The head of the goddess on the right had fallen off before this photograph was taken : the whole figure would have fallen if it had been quite cleared from the surrounding earth. She had a round, short wig, her face was white with eyes black and lips reddened : she wore a necklace, painted as a band, with red and blue oval beads and border of black lines, and on her back a square-ended, red pendant like the end of a *menat*.

Above the head of the female figure on the left was the design of vine-leaves and bees shown in plate I. The left hand of the Bes grasps a snake and also a quadruped whose nature is not clear, perhaps an antelope. It is painted yellow with black lines and red inside the ears, and has horns on one of which a spiral line is visible.

The body of Bes is painted red and the background behind him white : the smaller figure is white against a yellow background.

In places where the plaster has but recently fallen away, we could see that the mud had been scored so as to give a grip to the upper layer.

PLATE XXVII. — This, the best of the Bes groups found, has now been transferred to the Museum; it stood in the lowest of the chambers (pl. III, 14), and faced north; the wall to which it was applied was built against the massive wall of brick. The height of the larger figure is 1 m. 50 cent.

One photograph shows the whole group, the other the female figure on a larger scale. Bes holds in one hand a snake, the scales of whose skin are drawn in white and yellow lines. The right arm of the god is broken; it must have been raised and probably carried a knife.

The female figure is white; the anklets and bracelets are made by bands of red and black. The necklace is in red, as is also the figure of Nefertum drawn on the breast.

PLATE XXVIII. — 1. Figure of Bes from west wall of chamber 11. To the left is the painting, a tracing of which is reproduced on the next plate. The little figure is clothed this time, and carries a sistrum in one hand, a cup in the other. To the right are traces of a picture of a vine.

2. From the end north wall of this group of rooms : this wall is built over the lining of the shaft of two Middle Kingdom tombs (marked 8 and 9, pl. III). The west wall of the shaft appears in the background and shows that the floor of the Bes chambers was much lower than the ground level at the time they were built.

On the left of the god stood an ape, but it fell before the photograph was taken.

PLATE XXIX. — 1. Part of the scene of plate XXVI, taken before the painting of the bees was removed.

2. A figure painted on the west wall of chamber 13 (pl. III). It shows the lower part of the body of a soldier painted on the white plaster in pink and red. The legs have been drawn twice, of very different dimensions, and in different colours : the thin inner leg in pink, the outer one red.

3. A tracing of the painting on the west wall of room 11 (pl. III). The old subject of the Pharaoh smiting the Asiatic captive is given in a singularly un-Egyptian style.

PLATE XXX. — 1, 2. A fine head of quartzite of Saite work, half life-size, found at the foot of a cliff near the northern boundary wall. Other objects close by were also of late Egyptian or Greek times.

3. Limestone figure, 0 m. 10 cent. wide, of nude girl on a bed. Red lines behind represent a mat. Border of black, red and white triangles. Lumpy work.

4. Limestone model, 0 m. 10 cent. long, of a house or shrine.

5. Female figure of yellow wax, about 0 m. 11 cent. long.

6. Three limestone figures of extreme rudeness. Height 0 m. 075 mill. and 0 m. 065 mill. They represent a dog-like figure squatting with knees raised, the forelimbs straight and erect. The head is intended to be human : the eyebrows are indicated by lines of black paint. The youthful lock of hair is carved on the right side of the head. Black spots over the body in one case.

PLATE XXXI. — 1. Terra-cotta head of a Bes, length 0 m. 09 cent., probably from an elaborate phallic figure. This has been covered with a thin layer of white plaster, then painted in two reds, blue and black.

Below it is a small doll-like figure (0 m. 06 cent.) of black wax.

2. Head of an eagle, of bronze, about 0 m. 03 cent. long, hollow, somewhat decayed. The base is smooth : the circular holes must have been used to attach it to a staff(?).

A cleverly made dog of bronze, solid.

3. Two small dummy stelæ(?) of limestone, 0 m. 06 cent. and 0 m. 05 cent. high, decorated with horizontal bands of red. Below them one of the phallic figures which were so numerous in and near the Bes chambers.

4. A small situla, 0 m. 12 cent. high, two little bells, an Apis, a bracelet of bronze wire.

5. All the objects above are small, a few centimetres long : this last is, however, a large block (0 m. 80 cent. \times 0 m. 50 cent.) from the cornice above the Ptolemaic gate at the north end of the site. The cartouche of Ptolemy V gives the most definite evidence yet found for the stone foundation wall, the pavement and the massive walls of brick. But they may all be considerably earlier.

PLATE XXXII. — Groups of pottery.

1. From tomb 75, that of Apa, two views of which are in plate XXII. This is typical of the early Middle Kingdom tombs, in most of which little pottery was left.
2. From tomb 130, the second shaft behind the stela: doubtless of the same period as the last.
3. From a recess in the wall east of Bes 14, and at lower level than the Bes. Evidently of late period, but earlier than the Bes chambers.

PLATE XXXIII. — 1. Selection of pots from Bes chambers. The fluted black ware is characteristic.

2. Three more vases from the same places: the two on the left are cooking vessels.
3. A cooking pot with contents of roasted pine cones: this was not from a Bes chamber but from the same level to the north.
4. Three very small vases (about 0 m. 07 cent.) of yellow ware, from the Bes chambers. The type is common both in the highest levels in this site and also at Mitrahineh.

PLATE XXXIV. — 1. All the types of glass of which complete examples were found. The long-necked green glass bottles were the commonest; fragments of them were frequent at the highest levels. The green glass bowl is from a Coptic burial. The very small vases were found together near the surface: with them was a pad of human hair.

2. The best piece of glass reproduced on a larger scale. The vase was found in clean surface sand: it must then, on this site, be as late as the Ptolemaic epoch and it might be much later. The mouth was stopped with a mass of copper and lead scraps tied up in a piece of fine linen.

It is 0 m. 13 cent. high: inside is a hollow cylinder, vertical, fixed to the base, perhaps to keep up the stalks of flowers.

3. Bowl of blue faience. Diameter 0 m. 14 cent. Many fragments of these were found at the highest levels, but no complete vase.


PLATE XXXV. — 1. A Bes, 0 m. 09 cent. high, of very fine blue glaze.

2. Horus of blue faience. Height 0 m. 11 cent. Brilliant blue glaze. The god wears pointed grooved cap, the edge of it formed by row of curls: at the end of these on the right side the traditional lock: he is seated on a cushion (? crocodile).

3. Horus. Height 0 m. 06 cent. Colour very light green with hair, hands, etc., dark brown. Below this a very delicate head of Ptah Sokar.

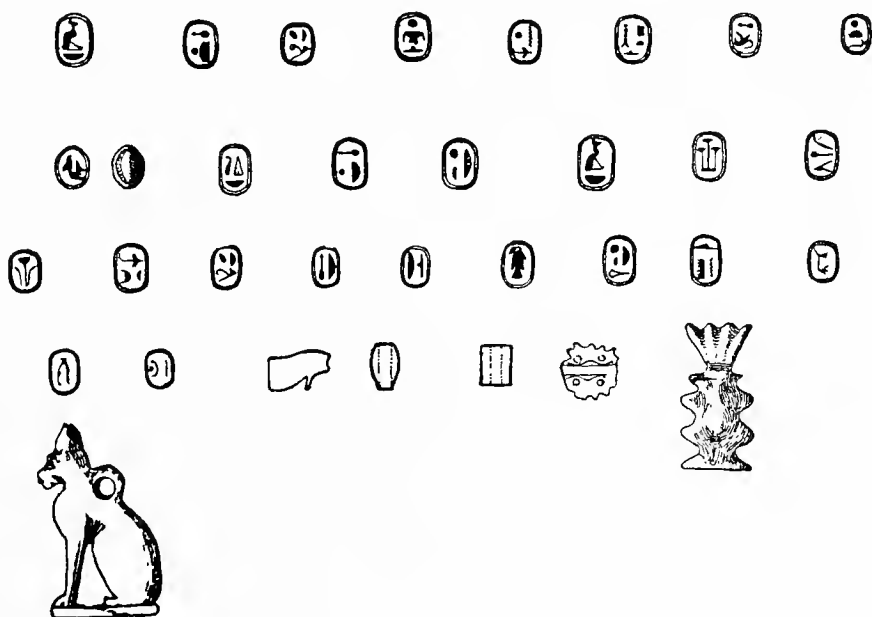
4. Part of a faience bowl (diameter of base 0 m. 07 cent.), of a ware of which several fragments were found. The interior is a coarse whitish, sandy frit: the glaze is of two colours.

The inside and the base and the floral ornament outside are light blue : the background on the outside is a dark violet blue.

PLATE XXXVI. — 1. Carnelian ring engraved with calf galloping through plants. Two hooks of ivory stained pink. A lot of shells, striped brown and white. Small ivory disc beads, some pink, some white. Long pink ivory beads of flower shape. Eyes of lapis lazuli, neatly carved. Small blue disc beads. A ram-headed scarab of red glass, plain, 0 m. 02 cent. long. With these were an ordinary white steatite scarab inscribed , a bronze bracelet, two iron bracelets, and a small bronze bowl with embossed lotus pattern on the bottom. This group came from a burial in very bad condition, found near and below the level of the Bes chamber 14. The group would be dated by its style to the XIXth Dynasty and the presence of the iron bracelets is important.

2. A Bes of blue faience and a set of beads, with rude Bes amulets of glazed steatite. These were found in a group, but the burial to which they belonged had disappeared. They were near the double stairway, below the pavement level, and are of later date, presumably, than the group above.


PLATE XXXVII. — 1. A pretty set of small (0 m. 005 mill.) scarabs found in the stone chips between the double stairway and the great brick wall. No bones were near them; they had



perhaps been dropped by a visitor. Three of the twenty-six scarabs bear king's names, Khafra, Sebekhotep III, and Nubhotepa, a singular selection. The cylindrical beads are of red glass, the eyes of glazed steatite. The group is, of course, of late period.

2. From a burial (161) near the south niche of the mastaba. The ear-studs were found in place : they are of red glass. The small disc-beads of shell formed anklets. The cylindrical beads are of ivory, the large spherical ones of red glass. The bronze hoop and the two mounted scarabs are from another body in the same group (164). One scarab is of glazed steatite, and inscribed : the other is of amethyst and plain. Both have gold mounts and bronze hoops.




3. Beads from another tomb (165) near the south niche of the mastaba. The ear-studs are of red glass, the flat white discs of shell and of blue faience, the smaller beads of red glass, the eyes of opaque red and transparent blue glass, the  beads of blue faience, the barrel-shaped inscribed beads of ivory; these are shown in the accompanying line drawing.

There was, round the waist, a girdle of three strings, the upper of blue discs with one or two yellow spherical beads, the lower of white shell, the middle one containing the incised beads separated from each other by groups of three blue discs.

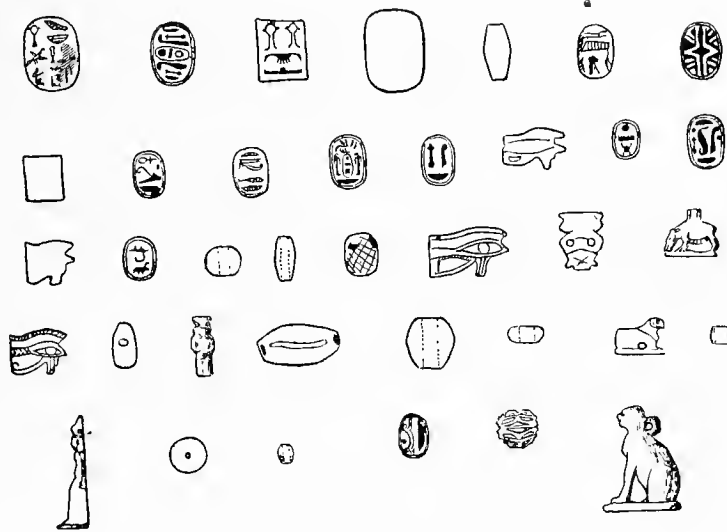
A limestone flake with scratched inscription. On the neck were the shield-shaped beads, each of them pierced with two holes for suspension : with them were some red glass discs. The eye of blue glass was found over the left orbit. All these beads were outside a cloth wrapping, not placed next to the body.

This was one of the New Kingdom burials found close to the southern niche of the mastaba.

4. This group of amulets and beads must belong together, in so close contact were they found; but they were not enclosed in a pot nor was a burial close by. They come from the south of the great wall from a depth which all dateable objects were of Ptolemaic or Roman times. With them were a small alabaster vase 0 m. 04 cent. high, of  form, the eagle head of bronze shown in plate XXVI and another small (0 m. 035 mill.) much decayed bronze of a boy sitting with his left knee raised, his right hand on the knee and his head leaning upon it. A plaque of lapis lazuli (0 m. 030 mill. x 0 m. 027 mill.), longitudinally pierced, is also omitted from the illustration. The beads are very varied, both in material and shape. They include :

- A cat of green faience, 0 m. 03 cent. high;
- An oval plaque of black serpentine;
- Figures of Nefertum and Isis, of green faience;
- Pigs, eyes, also of green faience;
- An eye of transparent agate;
- A Bes of carnelian;
- Shells and shell disc beads;
- Lapis lazuli scarab, inscribed;
- An oblong plaque of blue frit, inscribed;

Small crouching ram of haematite;
 An eye of yellow faience;
 A barrel-shaped quartz bead;



A lapis lazuli bead of flattened barrel shape;
 Nine scarabs.
 Most of the series are again shown in line-drawing above.

PLATE XXXVIII. — 1. Cloth of striped linen. Square of 0 m. 20 cent. The square and birds were made on a frame and sewn in (tapestry weaving). Colours are red, yellow, green, black, white and blue.

2. Cap, mostly of dark blue thread, not netted but made by some process which closely resembled crochet, and must have been worked with a hook. One side of it has square meshes, the other almost hexagonal. A little ornament is introduced by means of threads run in by the needle, some white, some red : these also help to shape the bag which narrows towards the top. The threads are gradually gathered into thicker strands and finished off at the top so as to allow a cord to pass through. There is a slit left purposely open from the top, and this at first caused me to suppose that the object was a bag and not a cap. There is no sign, however, of the bag having been sewed up at the bottom, and another similar object has since been found in place on the head.

3. From a shirt with border of blue linen embroidered in white. Length about 0 m. 94 cent. sleeve 0 m. 30 cent. The design is in red and green wool embroidered on white linen. The side seams are outlined with two cords, one inside, one out, one attached to each piece. Along the lower edge a blue linen border is stitched on and on this is a bold design embroidered in white. The two medallions, the hanging points and the collar are not separate pieces stitched

on, but are all, design and background, made of fine embroidery. The cloth is orange-coloured, partly wool, partly linen : along the edges of the material are stripes of white, like modern Ekhmim weaving. Width of the piece in the loom, 0 m. 70 cent. or more. The shirt is made of two lengths hemmed up in the middle. Above is a piece of coarse embroidery : ornament red and green alternately.

4. A rag doll found in a child's hand. The face is made of a roll of two stripes, one blue, one white, tightly rolled together. About 0 m. 12 cent. long (A. A. Q.).

PLATE XXXIX. — The first five photographs are from bundles of leaves found on the heads and feet of Coptic bodies; a very fine straw (? flax), a feathery grass, olive, myrtle and willow.

5. Shows a series of fruits found at the highest level and probably of the date of the Ptolemaic temple. The pomegranate, date (very small), balanites, peach and mimusops are recognizable.

6. A wooden comb, in very bad condition, permeated with salt, must also be of the Coptic period and probably came from one of the graves that had been disturbed.

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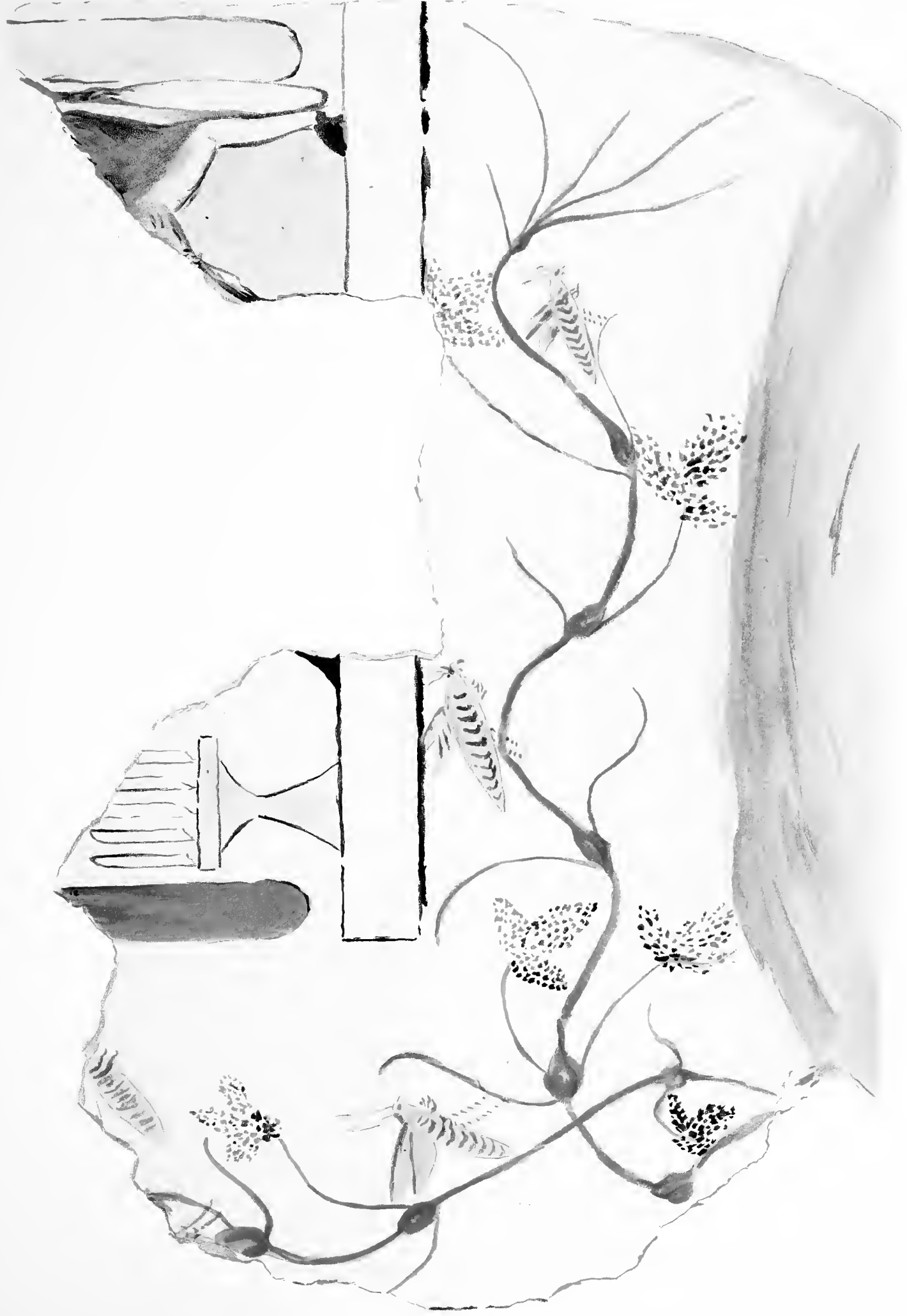
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XXXV Faience.

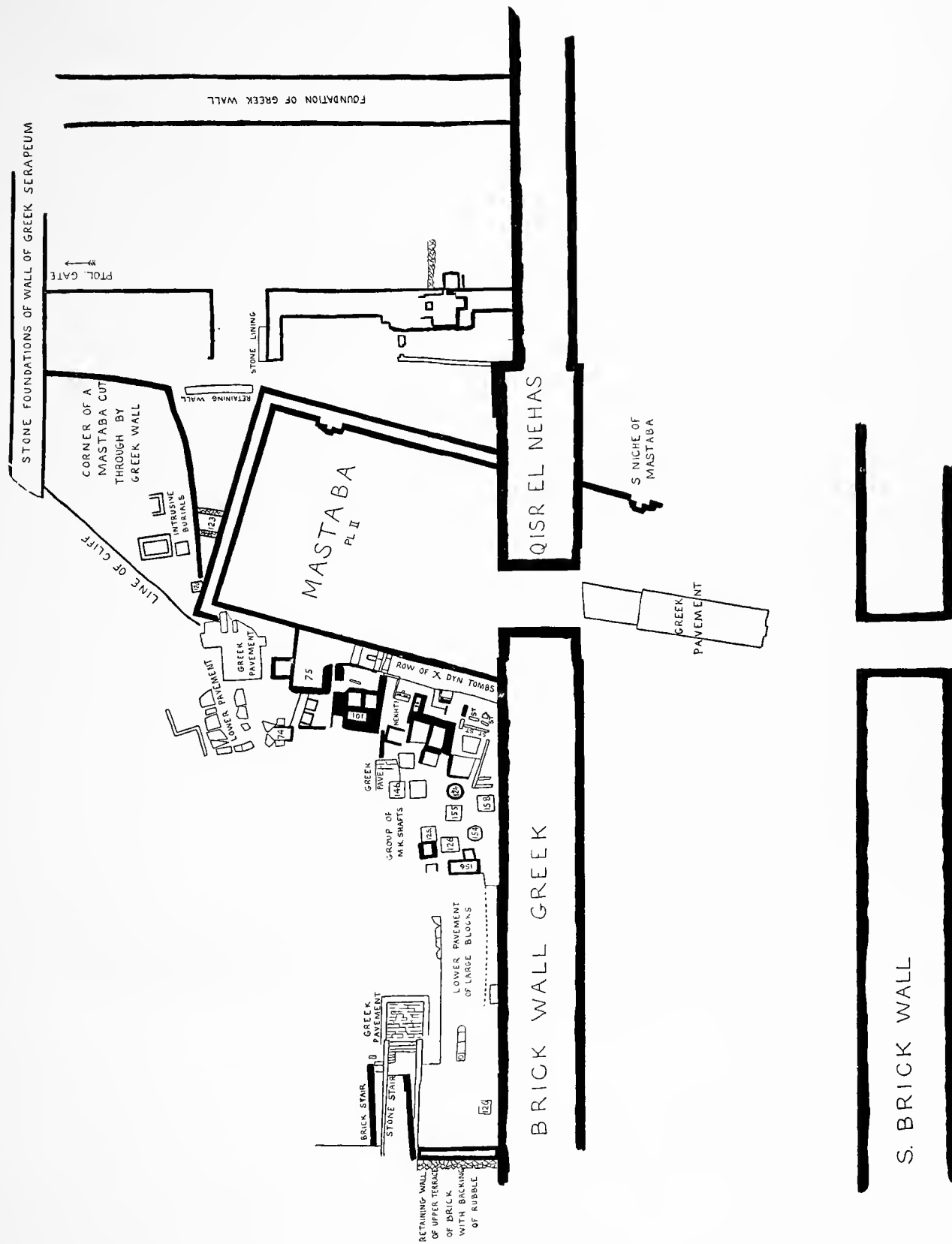
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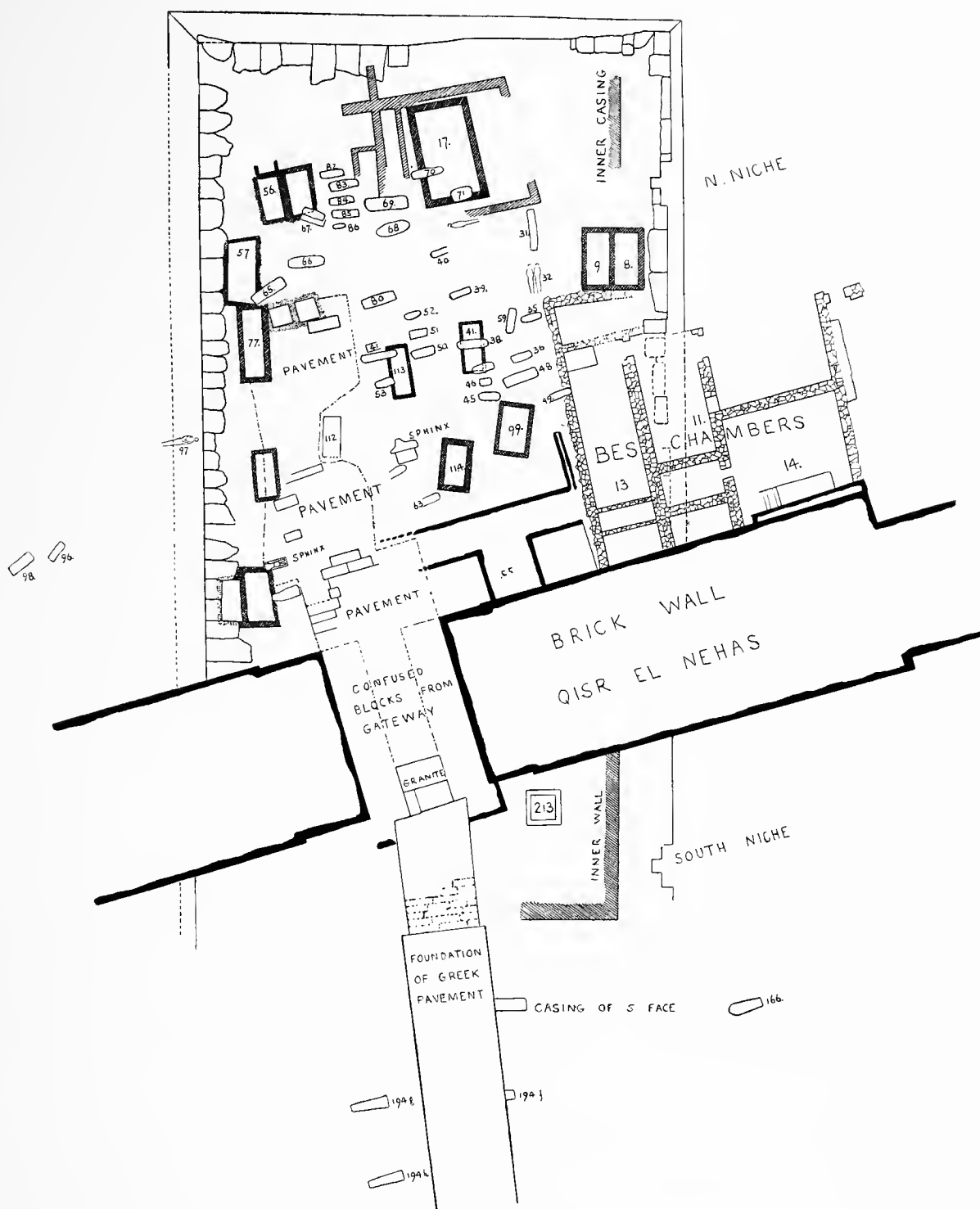
XXXVIII Coptic embroideries.

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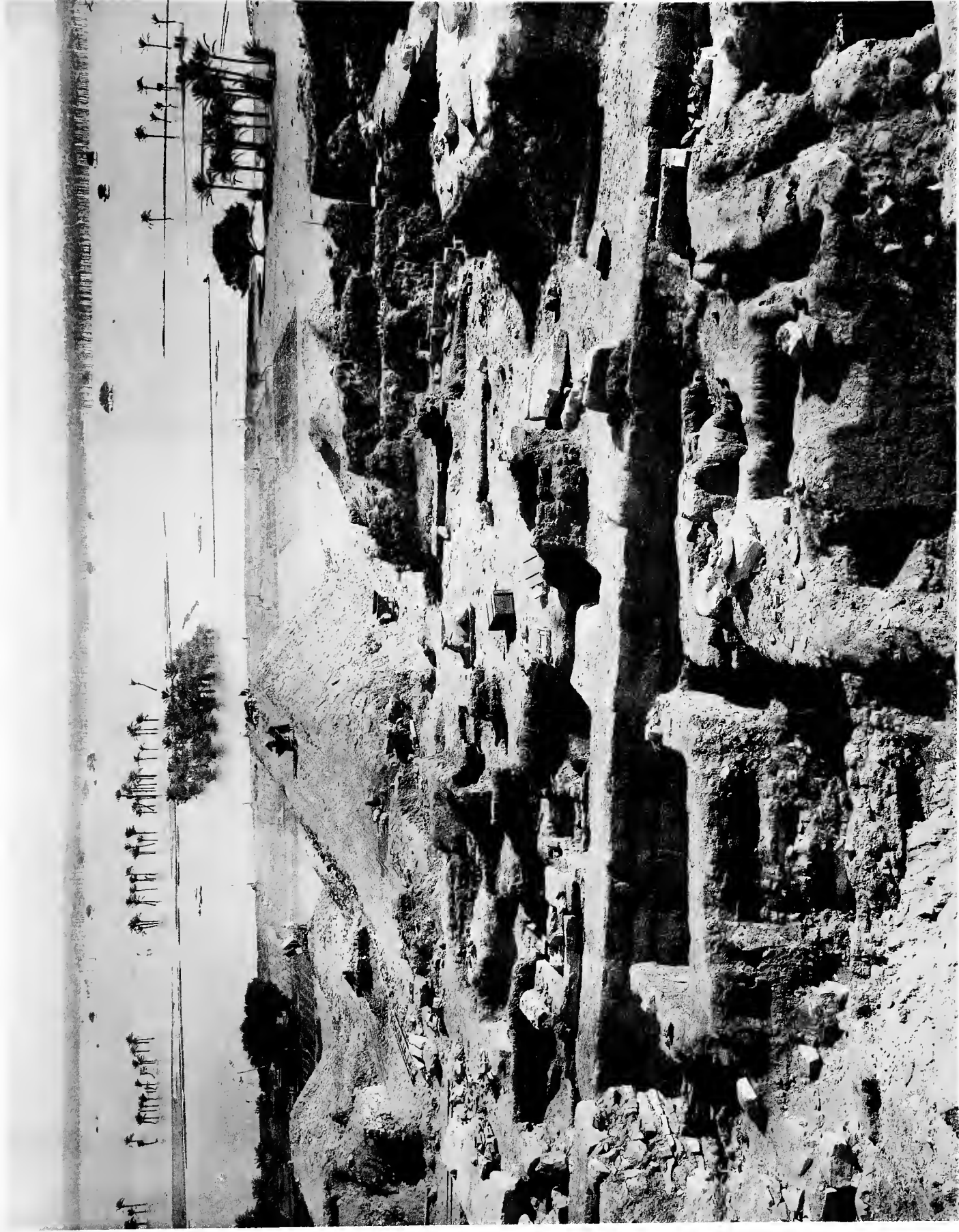


DETAIL FROM A BES CHAMBER.





PLAN OF MASTABA (I : 300).

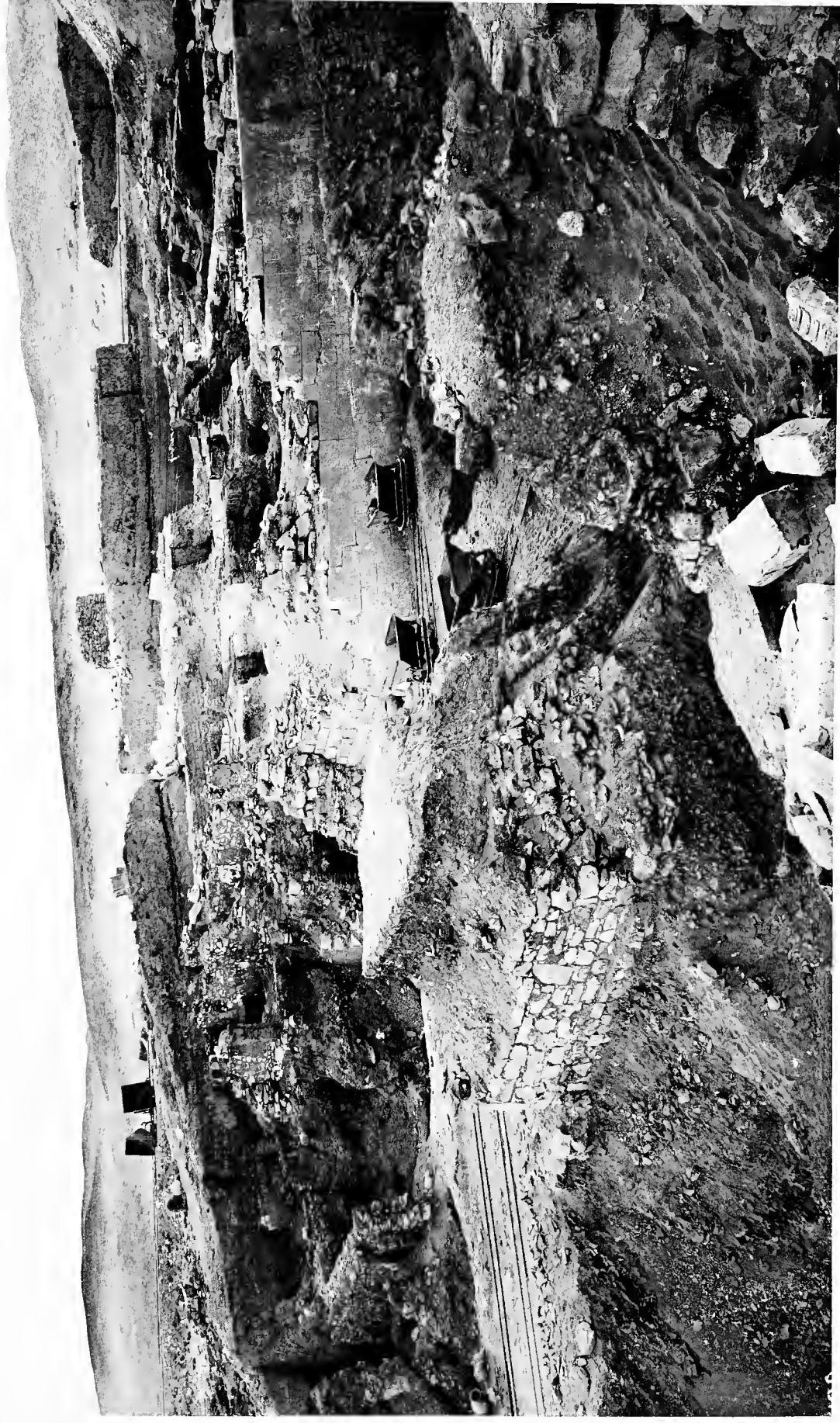


Phototypie Berthaud, Paris

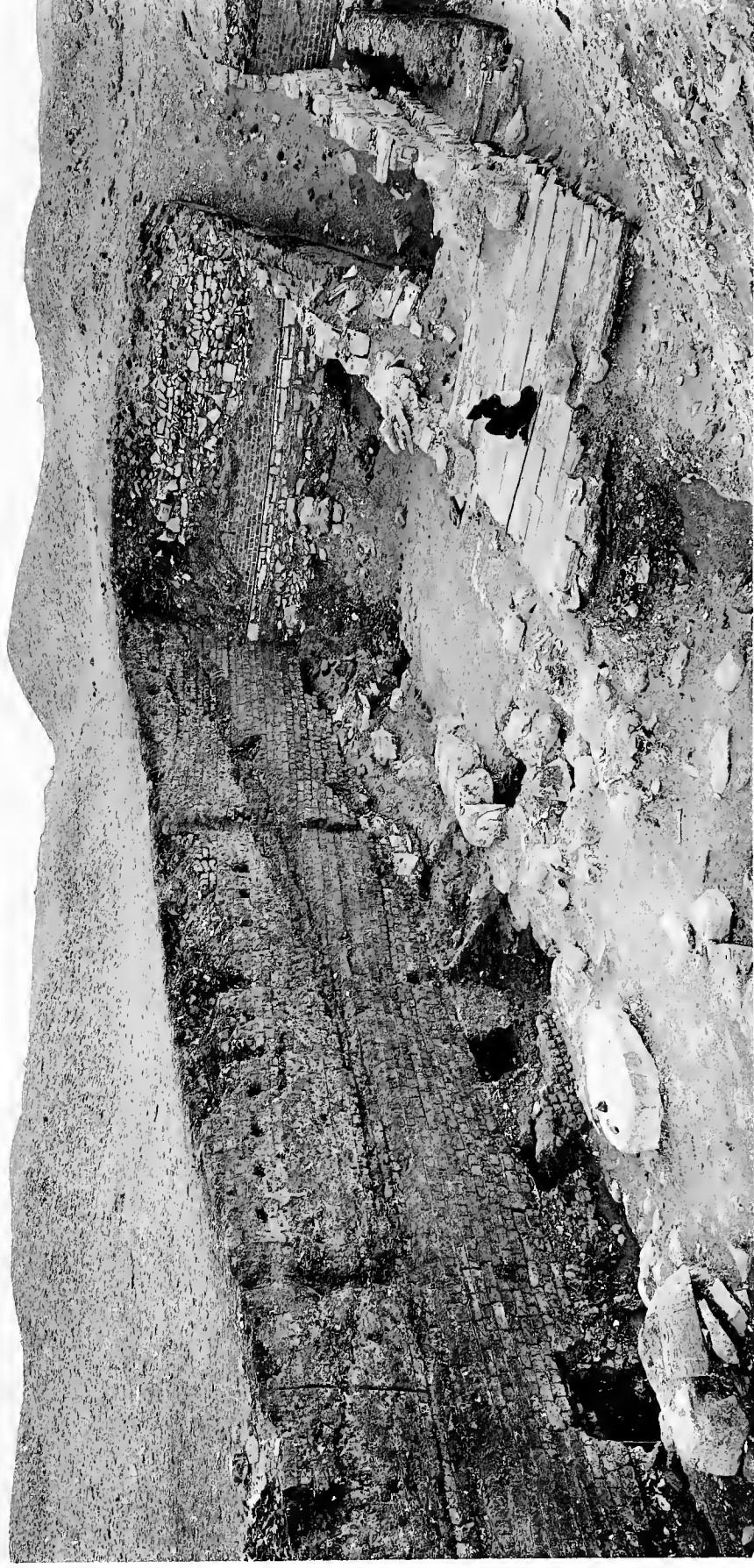
MASTABA FROM THE WEST.



Xth DYN. STELAE.



MASTABA FROM N.E.



FROM THE MASTABA LOOKING WEST.



FROM ABOVE THE DOUBLE STAIR LOOKING EAST.



ROW OF Xth DYN. TOMBS.



TOMB OF NEKHTI.



DRAIN. (?)



FROM PTOLEMAIC GATE LOOKING SOUTH.



STELA OF NEKHTI.



STELA OF HERSHAFNEKHT.



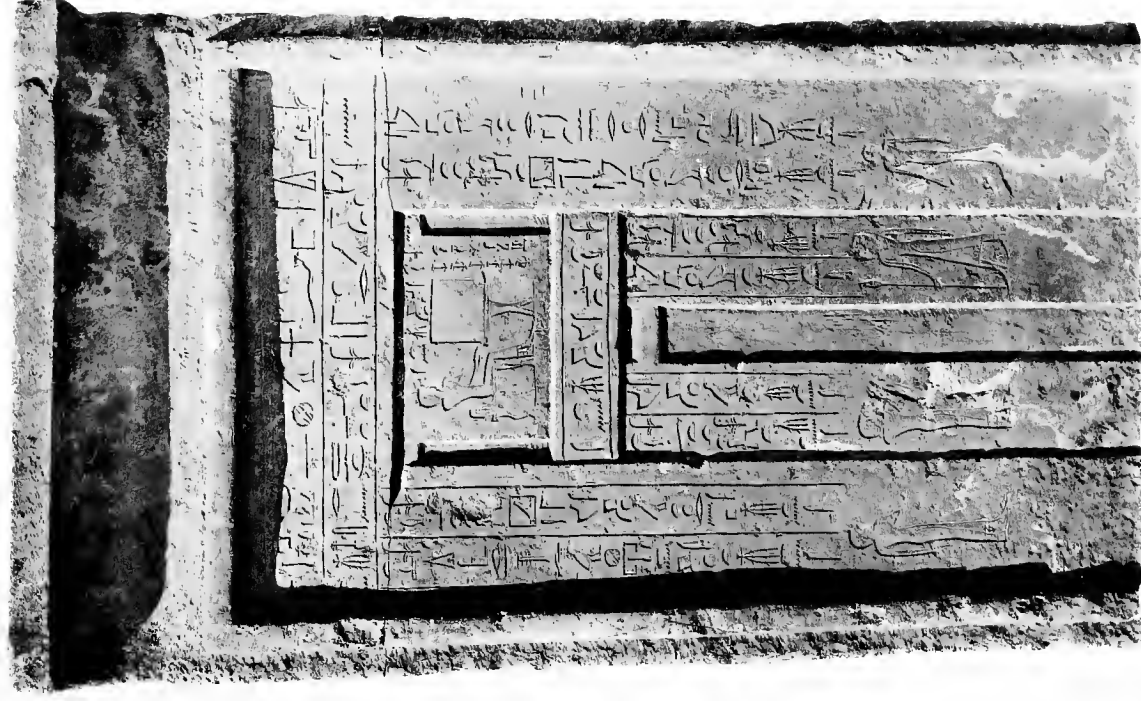
STELA OF APA.



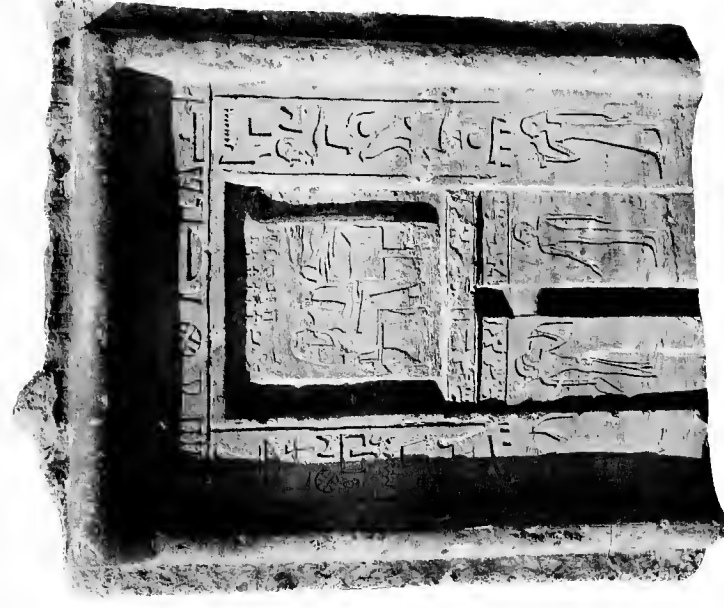
STELA OF KHUY.



STELA OF ANPUEMHAT.



STELA OF MESTENI.



STELA OF SITKHOMTU.



1



2



3



4



5



6



1



2



3



4



1



2



3

FLANKING PIECES FROM Xth DYN. STELAE.



1



2



3



4



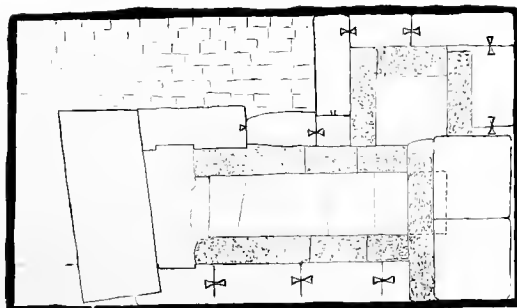
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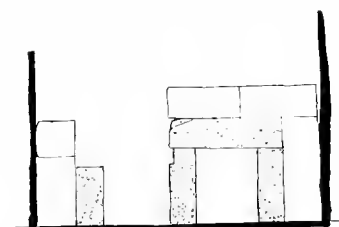
1



2



PLAN

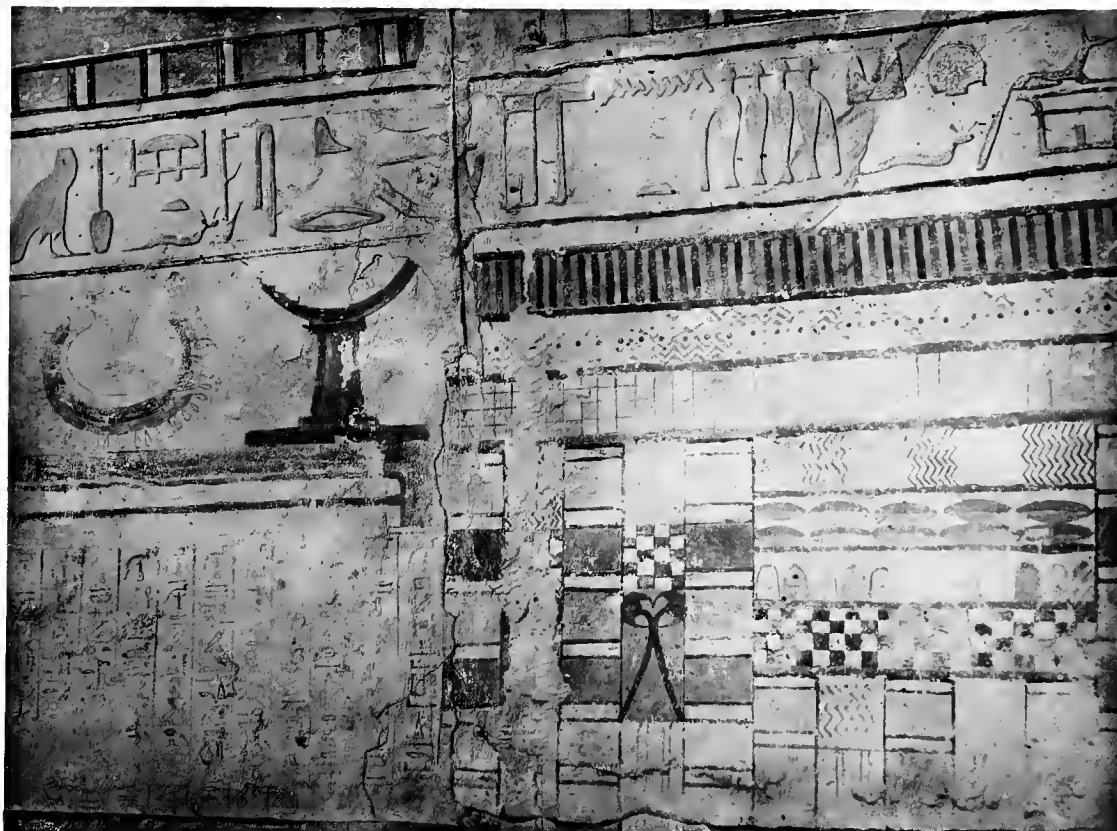


SECTION

M. K. TOMB IN THE FILLING OF THE MASTABA.

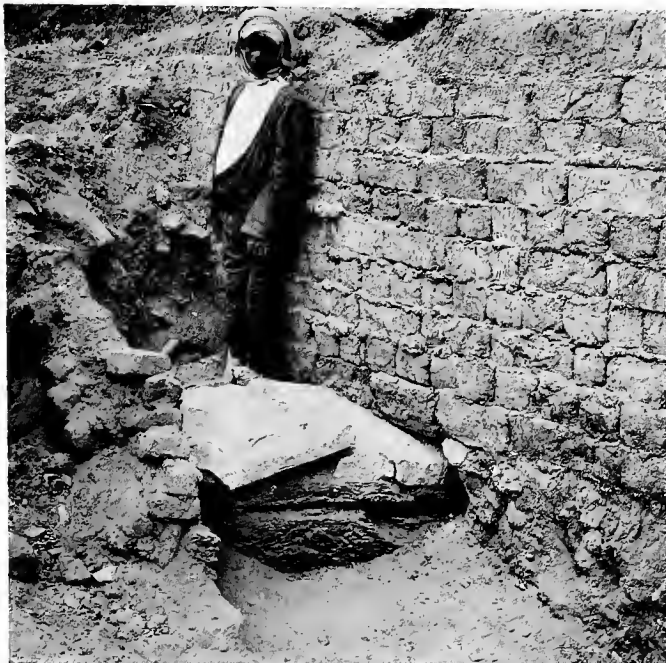


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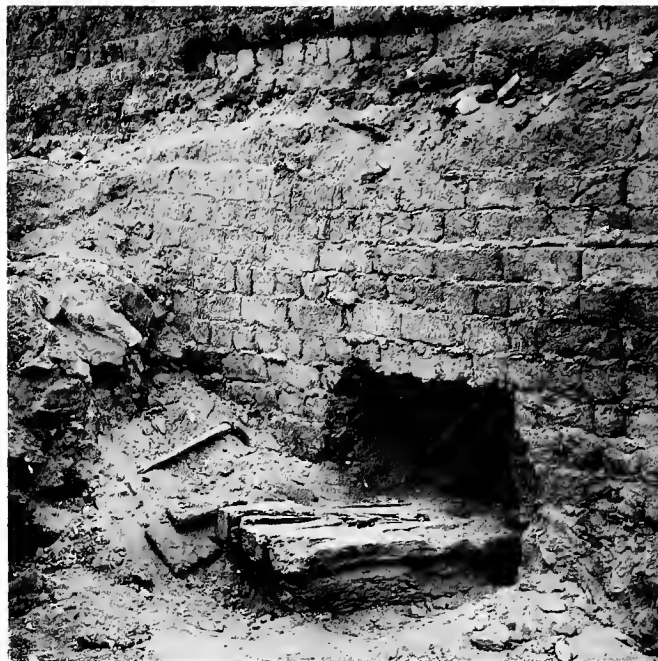


2

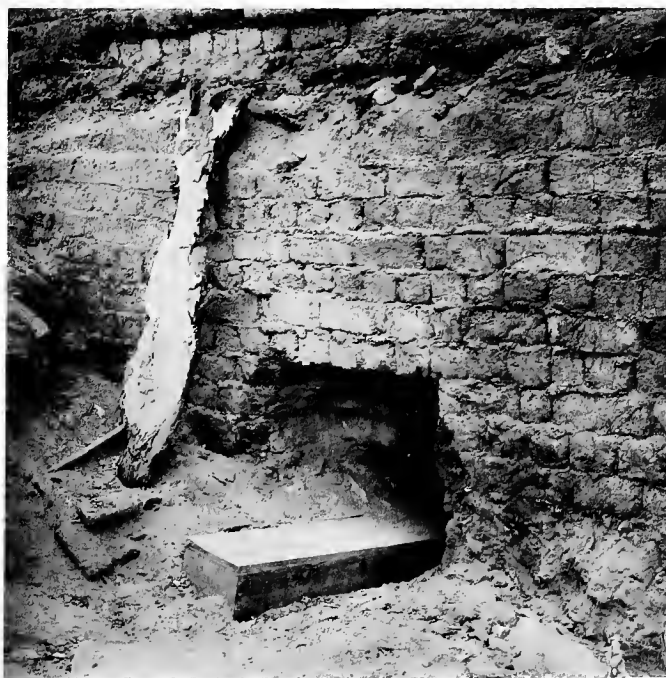
M. K. TOMB WEST OF MASTABA.



1



2



3



4

M. K. BURIAL UNDER THE GREAT WALL.



A SPHINX AS FOUND.



COPTIC GRAVE CUT THROUGH M K. WALL.



1



2



3



4



BES CHAMBER.







1



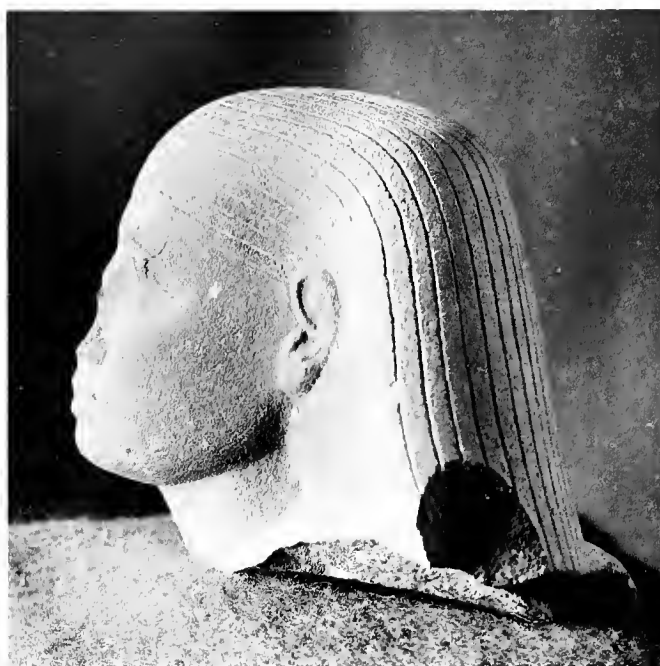
2



3



1



2



3



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2



3



1



2



3



4

POTTERY.



2



3



1



1



2



3



4

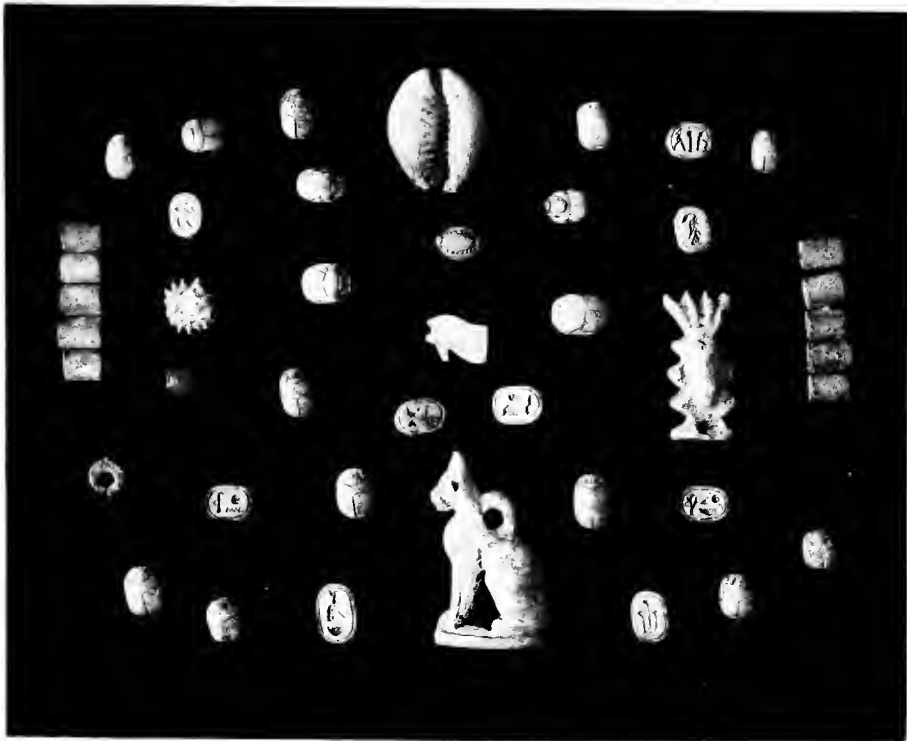
FAIENCE.



1



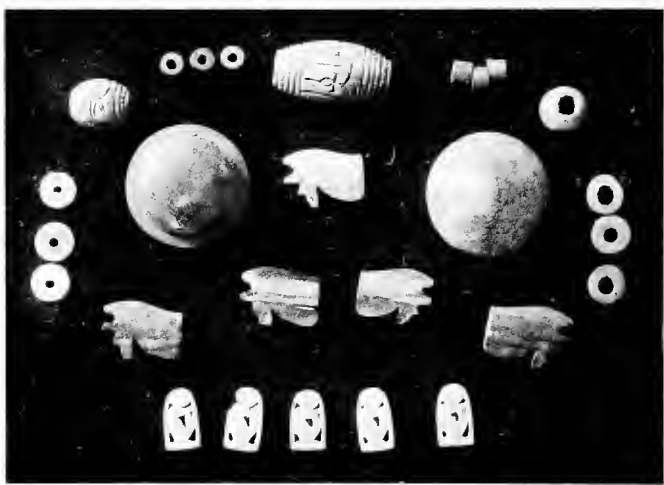
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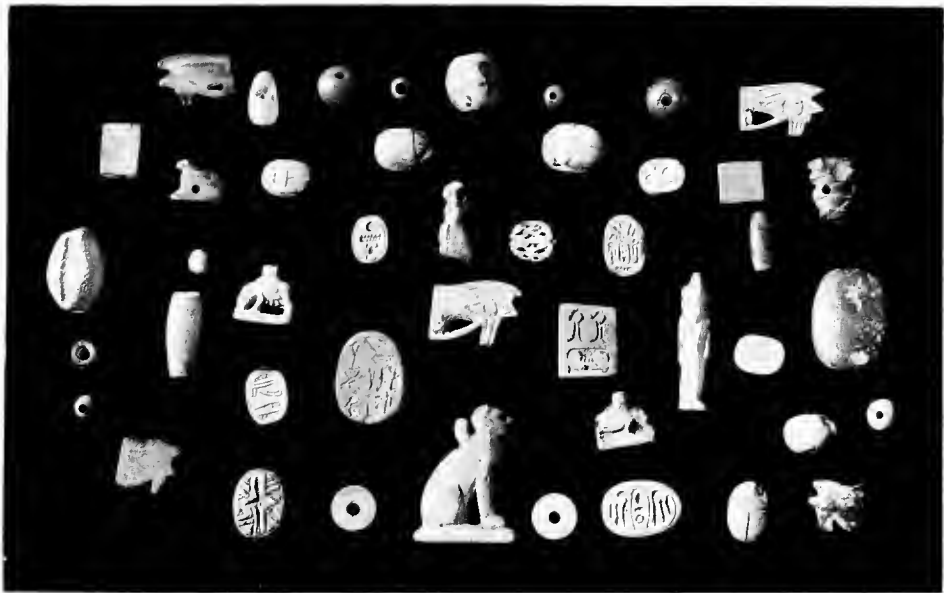
1



2



3



4



1



2



3



4

COPTIC EMBROIDERIES, A CAP, A RAG DOLL.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

PLANTS FROM COPTIC BURIALS.

SEEDS.

A COMB.





